

Histadnet

LABOR and INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FORUM
 Grandview Lodge Brainerd, Minnesota
 September 30th, October 1st and 2nd 1964
CONTACT: Gordon Waller, 1043 Upper Midwest Bldg., Mpls., Minn. Phone: FEderal 6 1052

F A C U L T Y

His Excellency Gershon Collier, Ambassador Sierra Leone, Africa	Yeheskel Barnea, Consul Consulate General of Israel, Chicago, Illinois
Hon. Eugene McCarthy, Senator State of Minnesota	Gregory J. Bardacke, Executive Director American Trade Union Council for Histadrut
Prof. Martin W. Duffy, Labor Education Industrial Relations Center, University of Minn.	Rudolph Faupl, V. P. Int. Machinists Ass'n. U.S. Labor Representative to I. L. O.
Prof. John J. Flagler, Director Labor Education, University of Minnesota	Harold Gibbons, Vice President International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Ben Zion Ilan, International Representative Histadrut (Israel Federation of Labor)	Kenneth Kelley, Deputy Director, Labor Affairs Agency Int. Development, State Department
Victor Reuther, Director International Affairs Dept. United Auto Work.	Prof. Wm. C. Rogers, Dir. Department of Con- tinuing Ed. in World Affairs, University of M.
Prof. Joseph S. Smolen Labor Education, University of Minnesota	Dr. Judd Teller, Director Histadrut Cultural Exchange Institute

P R O G R A M S C H E D U L E

Conference Theme: CHALLENGES to LABOR at HOME and ABROAD

Wednesday, September 30th, 1964
 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. - Registration, Orientation, Recreation
 7:00 p.m. - Dinner, Greetings GOVERNOR CARL ROLVAAG - Guests of Honor,
 Conference Chairmen: JACK JORGENSEN - DAVID ROE - NEIL SHERBURNE
 8:00 p.m. - Reception and Social - Guests of Honor, CONFERENCE FACULTY

Thursday, October 1st, 1964
 9:30 a.m. - Opening Session - PROF. JACK FLAGLER, Chairman
 Presentation - HAROLD GIBBONS
 Subject: Challenges to Labor at Home and Abroad
 10:30 a.m. Presentation - BEN ZION ILAN
 Subject: Labor's Contribution to the State of Israel
 12:15 p.m. Luncheon - Guest Speaker, CONSUL YEHESEKEL BARNEA
 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Session - PROF. JOSEPH SMOLEN, Chairman
 Presentation - VICTOR REUTHER
 Subject: The American Labor Movement in World Affairs
 2:30 p.m. Presentation - DR. JUDD TELLER
 Subject: Labor's Role in International Affairs, The Histadrut Experience
 4:00 p.m. Recreation
 7:30 p.m. Dinner - Guest Speaker, SENATOR EUGENE MCCARTHY

Friday, October 2nd, 1964
 9:00 a.m. - Morning Session - PROF. MARTIN W. DUFFY, Chairman
 Presentation - KENNETH KELLEY
 Subject: America's Participation in the World Economy
 10:00 a.m. Presentation - RUDOLPH FAUPL
 Subject: Labor's Role in International Cooperation
 11:00 a.m. Presentation - PROF. WILLIAM C. ROGERS
 Subject: Today's World Challenges
 12:15 p.m. Luncheon - Guest Speaker, HIS EXCELLENCY GERSHON COLLIER
 2:00 p.m. - Afternoon Session - GREGORY J. BARDACKE, Chairman
 Presentation - PROF. JACK FLAGLER
 Subject: Design for Tomorrow

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for HISTADRUT

8 NORTH FIFTH STREET
Phone FEderal 2-3473
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55403

July 22, 1964



MINNESOTA LABOR'S FIRST ISRAEL PROJECT
Community Center Near Tel Aviv

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Mr. Harold Gibbons, Vice President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue N. W.
Washington 1, District of Columbia

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

We were delighted to hear from our good friend Jack Jorgensen that you have consented to participate in our first Midwestern Labor Histadrut Conference.

The conference has been set for Thursday and Friday, October 1st and 2nd, and will be co-sponsored by the Department of Labor Education of the University of Minnesota.

We are waiting for Judd Teller, Director of Histadrut's Department of Education, and Greg Bardacke to return from Israel to complete our conference plans. We will keep you advised as they develop.

Your participation in our first Midwestern Labor Conference will assure its success and we are, therefore, eagerly looking forward to your being with us.

Fraternaly,

Gordon Waller, Director

GW/mcw

cc: J. Teller, G. Bardacke
J. Jorgensen, J. Curtis,
N. Shapiro

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

x Weihrach, Milton -
Testimonial Dinner
x Invitation
x Collins, George

June 10, 1964

Mr. George Collins, Chairman
Milton Weihrach Testimonial Dinner
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for your invitation of June 9th, addressed
to President Hoffa, inviting him to attend the Milton Weihrach
Testimonial Dinner, to be held June 30, 1964.

Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, President
Hoffa will be unable to participate in this worthy cause.

Very truly yours,

James R. Harding
Special Assistant to
the General President

JRH/mc

GUEST LIST

NAME _____

Address _____

NAME _____

Address _____

NAME _____

Address _____

NAME _____

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NAME _____

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NAME _____

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NAME _____

Address _____

NAME _____

Address _____

You are cordially invited to attend a
Testimonial Dinner-Dance
in honor of
Milton Wehrauch
President, District 3, International Union of Electrical,
Radi and Machine Workers A.F.L.-C.I.O.
to establish a
Library of Democratic Thought
as a facility of
The Afro-Asian Institute for Labor Studies
Tuesday Evening, June 30, 1964
The Americana Hotel Imperial Ballroom
at 52nd Street, New York City
Sponsored by the
American Trade Union Council for Histadrut

Reception at 6:30 o'clock
Dinner at 7 o'clock
Tax Deductible

Cover: \$50 per person
Dress Optional
R.S.V.P.



OUR GUEST OF HONOR

Milton Wehrauch, president of District 3, International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, AFL-CIO, has a distinguished record of long and dedicated service to organized labor and to the community at large. He takes an active part in all humanitarian endeavors and in movements to foster the realization of democratic goals.

Milton is one of the founders of the International Union of Electrical Workers, having been the chairman of the Regional UE Members for Democratic Action which eliminated the destructive influences from the ranks of the organized workers in the electrical industry. He is an International Vice President of the IUE.

Our guest of honor is one of the founders of the Union Leadership Academy, in line with a continuing interest in every phase of labor education. He is a member of New Jersey Governor Richard J. Hughes Bi-Partisan Committee on Civil Rights. He serves as a trustee of the Labor Peace Corps and Development Corporation.

Our guest of honor manifests deep understanding and friendship for Israel's labor movement, the Histadrut, and its pioneering efforts to establish Israel as a democratic labor community and indispensable link in the chain of the world's free peoples.

EDUCATION IS THE BRIDGE TO FREEDOM



TOWARDS A LIBRARY OF DEMOCRATIC THOUGHT

PROCEEDS of this Testimonial to Milton Wehrauch will go to establish a Library of Democratic Thought as a facility of the Histadrut-sponsored Afro-Asian Institute for Labor Studies. The Institute receives major scholarship support from AFL-CIO unions.

American labor shares Histadrut's conviction that economic development can generate social justice only if it takes place in a climate of democratic freedom.

The Afro-Asian Institute in Tel Aviv trains young labor leaders from the developing countries in the principles of free trade unionism and the democratic solution of social problems. The Library of Democratic Thought will forge another strong link in the bridge of international labor friendship.

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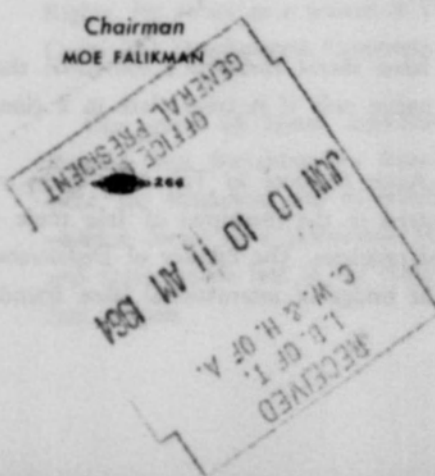
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ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadret
X Randolph Q. Philip
X Invitation

May 25, 1964

Mr. Gregory J. Bardacke, Exec. Director
American Trade Union Council
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Greg:

I have your letter of May 12th. The tickets for the Randolph Dinner of June 13th, have been forwarded to our Vice-President John O'Rourke.

I would appreciate it if you would contact him directly at 265 West 14th Street, New York, New York 10011, as to how he wants the table listed.

I am forwarding a copy of this communication to Vice-President O'Rourke.

Fraternally yours,

H. J. Gibbons
Vice-President

HJG/mc

AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street New York 21, N. Y. REgent 4-6010



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May 12, 1964

Mr. Harold Gibbons
Int'l. Brotherhood of Teamsters
1641 So. Kingshighway
St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Earl:

So very many thanks for your check of \$500 for
the S. Philip Randolph Dinner on June 13 at
The New York Hilton in New York City.

How should we list your table? Are you planning
to attend yourself? If not, who are your guests?
If you do not plan to fill the table, could we
invite members of the Sleeping Car Porters to be
your guests? As you know, the Sleeping Car Porters
is a poor union and since it is President Randolph
who is being honored, we would like to make it
possible for many of his members to be present.

Please let me know your wishes regarding this mat-
ter.

Best personal regards.

Cordially,

Gregory J. Bardacke
Executive Director

GJB/tg
oeiu: 153

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE 12

CF

Mistadent
A. Randolph, R. Philip
X Invitation
A. J. H. - C. S. - P. C. T. W.
X K. J. M. V. J. H. - C. S. - P. C. T. W.

General Secretary-Treasurer English
H. J. Gibbons

Washing Cars April 24, 1964

This will authorize the purchase of a table of ten (10) tickets for the dinner honoring A. Philip Randolph, as per the attached invitation. The tickets are \$50 per person, or a total of \$500 per table.

Please forward the tickets to my office for my arrival.

H. J. Gibbons

HJG: no'a

General Secretary-Treasurer English

April 24, 1964

H. J. Gibbons

This will authorize the purchase of a table of ten (10) tickets for the dinner honoring A. Philip Randolph, as per the attached invitation. The tickets are \$50 per person, or a total of \$500 per table.

Please forward the tickets to my office for my arrival.

H. J. Gibbons

HJG:ao'n

*Histadrut Humanitarian Award
June 13, 1964
N.Y. Hilton Grand Ballroom*

BATTLE, FOWLER, STOKES & KHEEL

270 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

GEORGE GORDON BATTLE
1887-1946
LUDLOW S. FOWLER
1894-1964
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GEORGE FAUNCE, JR.
COUNSEL
TUXON 8-8320
CABLE ADDRESS
"COUNSELLOR"

April 13, 1964

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons
Local 688, IBT
1641 South Kingshighway
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Harold:

Thank you very much for agreeing to serve as a Sponsor
of the Histadrut Humanitarian Award Dinner to A. Philip
Randolph Saturday, June 13, 1964, at The New York Hilton.

I am sure that your acceptance indicates recognition of
the importance of your full participation. I know that
you can be counted upon to do everything possible to make
this Dinner for our guest of honor and the cause he is
championing an overwhelming success.

Cordially,

Ted
Theodore W. Kheel
Chairman

TWK/fg
oeiu: 153

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut
x Randolph, A. Philip
x Invitation
x A. H. C. C. - Porters,
Sleeping Car
x Kheel, Theodore W.

March 17, 1964

Mr. Theodore W. Kheel, Chairman
Histadrut Humanitarian Award Committee
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Ted:

Thank you for your letter of March 9, 1964. I am enclosing
the card accepting the honor of serving as a Sponsor of the
Histadrut Humanitarian Award to A. Philip Randolph.

Very truly yours,

H. J. Gibbons
Vice President

HJG/alb
Enclosure

BATTLE, FOWLER, STOKES & KHEEL

280 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

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YUON 6-8330
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"COUNSELLOR"

March 9, 1964

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons
Local 688, IBEW
1641 South Kingshighway
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Harold:

I am happy to inform you that A. Philip Randolph, President, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, has been unanimously designated by the National Committee for Labor Israel to receive the 1964 Histadrut Humanitarian Award "for distinguished service to the cause of democracy and for the furtherance of friendly relations between our country and the young State of Israel." President Randolph richly deserves this coveted honor.

Past recipients of this Award are Alben W. Barkley (1950), Harry S. Truman (1951), William O. Douglas (1952), Eleanor Roosevelt (1953), Averell Harriman (1955), George Maany (1957), Walter P. Reuther (1958), David Dubinsky and Jacob S. Potofsky (1959), Arthur J. Goliberg (1961), David J. McDonald (1963).

The Award will be presented to President Randolph on Saturday evening, June 13, 1964, in the Grand Ballroom of The New York Hilton before a board of distinguished civic, business and trade union leaders.

Proceeds of the Dinner will provide scholarships in the name of A. Philip Randolph at the Histadrut-sponsored Afro-Asian Institute for Labor Studies. This Institute helps train young labor leaders from the new nations in the democratic solution of social and economic problems.

I have accepted the invitation from the National Committee for Labor Israel to serve as Chairman of the Committee because of my great respect for A. Philip Randolph and the humanitarian cause the Dinner will be serving.

I extend to you an invitation to become a Sponsor of this event and help ensure its overwhelming success. I trust that you will indicate your acceptance on the enclosed card and return it as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Teel
Theodore W. Kheel
Chairman

TWK/fg
oaiu: 153
enc.

JAMES B. CAREY
President
GEORGE COLLINS
Vice President



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF ELECTRICAL, RADIO
AND MACHINE WORKERS

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

EXECUTIVE 3-6094
1126 SIXTEENTH STREET N. W. WASHINGTON 36, D. C.

May 15, 1964

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Hoffa
Wehrauch, Milton
Invitation

Mr. James R. Hoffa, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, Northwest
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Friend:

Milton Wehrauch, President, District 3, IUE, AFL-CIO, is to be cited by the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut for his dedicated efforts on behalf of organized labor in the United States and Israel and his civic and humanitarian endeavors. President Wehrauch will receive his honors at a gala Dinner-Dance, Tuesday, June 30th, at the Americana of New York.

Proceeds of the Testimonial will be earmarked to establish a Library for Democratic Thought as a facility of the Afro-Asian Institute for Labor Studies. This Institute trains young labor leaders from the developing countries in the principles of free trade unionism and the democratic solution of their problems.

It is my pleasant duty as Dinner Chairman to ask you to join me in serving as a member of this Committee.

You will shortly receive a formal invitation to attend the Dinner-Dance for this fine cause. I know you will respond generously by taking as many tickets as possible for yourself and your friends.

Respectfully,

George Collins
George Collins
Chairman

GC-1h
oieu: 153

Mr. GEORGE COLLINS, *Chairman*
The Milton Weirbach Historical Dinner Committee
20 East 67th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Brother Collins:

You may list my name as a Sponsor of the Milton Weirbach Testimonial Dinner,
Tuesday, June 20, 1966, Imperial Ballroom, Hotel Americana, New York City.

NAME _____
(SIGNATURE)

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____ TEL. NO. _____

206

GEORGE COLLINS, *Chairman*

MILTON WEIHRACH TESTIMONIAL DINNER

33 EAST 67TH STREET

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.



AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
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Associate Director
EMIL ROSENBERG
Assistant Director

April 29, 1964

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut
X Invitation
X

Dear Friend:

You were recently invited to take part in our Unity House Conference, Decoration Day weekend, May 29-31.

This is going to be a great conference on a great theme which concerns YOU - The Role of Free Labor in Economic Development, its role in the struggle against world-wide poverty . . .

You read what President Johnson said . . .

"Every night when I go to bed I ask myself, 'What did I do today that we can point to for generations to come, to say that we laid the foundation for a better and more peaceful and more prosperous world?'"

Decoration Day weekend is traditionally one of the busiest on the Unity House calendar. Assure yourself of first choice on accommodations by making your reservations now . . . before May 15th.

If you have not already done so, please advise us immediately. ACT NOW!

Yours fraternally,

Maurice Spector
Maurice Spector
Conference Director

MOE FALKMAN
Moe Falkman
Chairman

Teamsters Joint Council No. 32

APPLIATED WITH THE



International Brotherhood of
**TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS** of America

JACK A. JORGENSEN
President

JOSEPH P. O'HARE
Secretary-Treasurer

706 FIRST AVENUE NORTH, MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA

Federal 9-1431

May 23, 1963

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histedt

X Jorgensen, Jack -

X Testimonial Dinner

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons, Vice Pres.
Int. Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue N.W.
Washington 1, D.C.

Dear Harold,

Just a note to thank you for taking time from
your busy schedule to be Guest Speaker at the
Testimonial Dinner honoring Mrs. Jorgensen and
myself. I am most grateful to you for coming
and your talk was excellent as evidenced by the
many fine comments I have heard since then.
With best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours,

TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL NO. 32

Jack J. Jorgensen, President

JJJ:fg
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Minnesota Trade Union Council For Labor Israel
8 NORTH 5th STREET • MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. • FE 2-3473



May 15, 1963

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
HISTADRUT
Forgiveness Jack J.
Testimonial Dinner
KC 32
invitation

CHAIRMAN
JOHN F. CURTIS

HONORARY CHAIRMEN
GOVERNOR KARL ROLVAA
MAYOR ARTHUR NAFTALIN
GORDON COMELIN
SANDER GENIS
ROBERT MESS
JACK J. JORGENSEN
ROBERT OLSON
M. A. SCHMEIDER
NEIL SHERBURNE

SPONSORING COMMITTEE
JOSEPH BARD
OVID (BAG) BASTIEN
DALE BURCHETT
NORMAN CARL
SAM DIKEL
RAY EWALD
TONY FELICETTA
RED GATES
PORT GOMSAUD
JACK KEEFE
HAL KRIEGER
ANDY JONES
LOUIS LERMAN
L. J. "Bud" LAVOIR
DOUGLAS McMAUGHTON
STEVE NEMOTTE
IRVING NIKEROV
I. J. "Sam" OAKES
JOSEPH O'HARE
AUGIE RAKNER
SOLLY ROBINS
EDWARD P. SCHWARTZ
GEORGE M. SCOTT
NATHAN SHAPIRO
CORT SILVER
ADOLF TOBLER
WYRONIE UTICHT
RAY WENTZ
HARVEY WERNER
RAYMOND WRIGHT

SECRETARY
RAY WALLIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NORBERT MOROWITZ

Miss Kato,
Teamsters International Union
Teamsters Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Uki:

Uki, It was good to talk to you.

This is the brochure for Jack and Florence. Would
you please give Jimmy one?

Thanks!

Cordially yours,

John Curtis/hm
enc.

MINNESOTA TRADE UNION COUNCIL
FOR LABOR ISRAEL — HISTADRUT



15th Anniversary of the State of Israel

TESTIMONIAL DINNER IN HONOR OF

Mr. and Mrs. Jack J. Jorgensen



THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 16, 1963 at 6:30 P. M.
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM, HOTEL PICK-NICOLLET

•
Guest Speaker — HAROLD J. GIBBONS

•
Honorary Co-Chairmen
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY and BENJAMIN N. BERGER



*Senator Hubert Humphrey
extending congratulations
to Jack J. Jorgensen for his
many years of community
service.

In Appreciation

The Minnesota Trade Union Council for Histadrut is rightfully proud to join this deserving testimonial to Jack J. Jorgensen, President, Teamster's Joint Council No. 32.

Jack J. Jorgensen has always shown a deep concern for the welfare of humanity everywhere beginning with the familiar home circle, then to the citizen, the working people of his native Minnesota, and reaching to the far corners of the globe.

A man of dependability and good deeds, Brother Jorgensen merits the lofty esteem in which he is held not only by organized labor but by the community at large. However, this night is more than a personal tribute. Jack Jorgensen has extended the dedicated hand of friendship to labor recreation of Israel by joining in the building of a Minnesota Youth Center in Israel.

This gesture of fraternalism is a mark of the understanding man so we wish him many years of creative and definitive service to the cause of better labor understanding assuring a continuity of programs here and throughout the entire world.

— THE COMMITTEE



Left to right — Jack J.
Jorgensen, Mrs. Karl Rol-
vaag, Governor Karl Rol-
vaag, Sidney Zagn (Polish
local Director, International
Brotherhood of Teamsters)
and Toastmaster Judge
Donald T. Barbano.



GOVERNOR KARL ROLVAAG and JACK J. JORGENSEN

Portrait of a Man

By NORBERT HOROWITZ

Historical facts are my witness that the Scandinavian people were among the most courageous fighters against the Nazi occupation during the Second World War. Not only did they defend their countries with sacrifices still studied and admired by mankind, but also helped to save from annihilation, tens of thousands of Jewish men, women and children.

Many lost their own lives in this heroic and unselfish operation and the State of Israel and the Jewish people all over the world will be eternally grateful.

Jack J. Jorgensen is a descendant of Denmark and Sweden. Born in North Dakota, he serves the American people with courage, dignity and success through the labor movement.

As president of the Teamster's Joint Council No. 32 of Minneapolis, he has a record of 20 years of active and leading participation in community and charitable work. Named by "Life" magazine as one of the "100 outstanding leaders of tomorrow," he joined John F. Curtis, one of the leading personalities in the AFL CIO to organize the Minnesota Trade Union Council for Labor Israel — Histadrut with the simple words, "We will help the noble ideas and work of Histadrut to rebuild the State of Israel."

In his modest office, opposite his desk, a visitor will find a tablet with the words from a great American, Abraham Lincoln — "I do the best I know how, the very best I can. I mean to keep on doing this, down to the very end."

Jack J. Jorgensen lives according to this motto and therefore he is successful in his work and loved by the community and the labor movement.

Tonight the community and Histadrut are selecting you, Jack J. Jorgensen. And soon the builders of the State of Israel will greet you personally.

Greetings and Shalom

We extend our sincerest thanks to our many friends who so unselfishly supported this effort.

Your contributions will help the Labor Organizations in the Midwest to build their first project in Israel.

The Name: MINNESOTA STATE TRADE UNION YOUTH CENTER.

— The Committee

Honorary Co-Chairmen

GOVERNOR KARL ROLVAAG	MAYOR ARTHUR NAPTALIN	ROBERT HESS ROBERT OLSON
GORDON CONKLIN		BANDER GENIS

Dinner Co-Chairmen — SI WEISMAN and NEIL SHERBURNE

Minnesota State Chairman for Histadrut — JOHN F. CURTIS

Sponsoring Committee

JOSEPH BARD	ANDY JONES	GEORGE M. SCOTT
OVID (Bugsy) BASTIEN	LOUIS LERMAN	MATHAN SHAPIRO
DALE BURCHETT	L. J. "Bud" LeVOIR	CORT SILVER
NORMAN CARL	DOUGLAS	ADOLF TOSLER
SAM DIEHL	McNAUGHTON	JEROME UTECHT
RAY EWALD	STEVE NEHOFF	RAY WENTZ
TONY FELICETTA	IRVING NEMEROV	HARVEY WERNER
FRED GATES	I. J. "Slim" OAKES	RAYMOND WRIGHT
LESTER GEORGE	JOSEPH O'HARE	Secretary —
ROBT. GOMSRUD	AUGIE RATNER	RAY WALLIN
JACK KEEFE	SOLLY ROBINS	Executive Director —
HAL KRIEGER	EDW. P. SCHWARTZ	NORBERT
		HOROWITZ

Our Guest Speaker — Harold J. Gibbons



Harold J. Gibbons, 51, Executive Assistant to the General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, was elected Vice-President of the Union in October, 1957. He continues to serve as director of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' National Warehouse Division and secretary-treasurer of the 12 state Central Conference of Teamsters positions he has held since 1953.

A student of economic history and the labor movement, Mr. Gibbons entered the union field via the American Federation of Teachers. He has lectured at a number of universities, including Chicago, Wisconsin, St. Louis, California and in 1957 conducted a graduate seminar on collective bargaining in the warehouse industry at Harvard University. In 1954 and 1955 he was a participant in Colorado's Aspen Institute.

In 1950 Mr. Gibbons represented the U. S. Economic Cooperation Administration in France to study the effects of the Marshall Plan on French trade unions and in 1954 he was a member of a U. S. Labor Delegation to Israel.

Mr. Gibbons, 51 years of age, was born in Archibald Patch, Pennsylvania, the youngest of 23 children whose father was a coal miner. His father died when Gibbons was 14 and the family moved to Chicago.

There, the young Gibbons finished a high school course and took odd jobs as a cook to finance night school classes. He later attended daytime classes as a regular student at the University of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin.

When the depression hit, Mr. Gibbons obtained a job teaching skills and writing textbooks for the W. F. A.'s adult education project. While in this capacity, he organized and became first president of Local 326 of the American Federation of Teachers. In 1936 he was elected International Vice President and organizer for this union.

His success in organizing the teachers and the cab drivers next led to his appointment as assistant regional director of the CIO in Chicago, and later as a Midwest organizer for the Textile Workers Union. He continued in this post until 1941 when he settled in St. Louis as director of that city's Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees Union (CIO).

Mr. Gibbons began to build that unit into a large and powerful local union which today is a stronghold of American trade unionism, on the "Must see" list of State and Labor Department visitors from foreign countries.

Among Mr. Gibbons' innovations was the famous St. Louis Labor Health Institute founded in 1942 as a completely free medical center for his local union's members and their families. He still serves as President of the Institute. He pioneered with the guaranteed annual wage agreement in his local in 1953. And in the border city of St. Louis, he pioneered with non-discrimination clauses in his contracts, upgrading many hundreds of workers to higher job classifications otherwise unattainable because of race.

A strong believer in political action, Mr. Gibbons has also pioneered a program known in his local as the Community Action Program, in which neighborhood stewards are elected in the fashion of shop stewards to handle members' grievances at the neighborhood and community levels. A current project of his home local is the construction of an elaborate Health and Recreation Camp on the outskirts of St. Louis with cabins and other facilities for retired members and those recuperating from illness.

In addition to his other work, Mr. Gibbons has also served as President of the 40,000 member Joint Council of Teamsters Nos. 13 to St. Louis and of the Missouri-Kansas Conference of Teamsters since 1953.

Mr. Gibbons is married and has three children. His wife, Ann, was an art history major at the University of Louisville when he met her in the course of an organizing campaign. He was a Pennsylvania State Unionist.

In 1954 he was a member of the U. S. Labor Delegation to Israel. Harold J. Gibbons is extending the friendship bond to Israel by actively working as a member of the National Committee of the American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel.

Our Guest Speaker - Harold J. Gibbon

Your Menu

•

FRUIT SUPREME
Colored Ice

ROAST PRIME RIBS of BEEF
Au Jus

ASPARAGUS

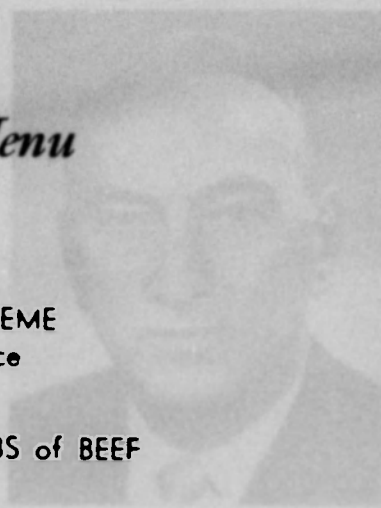
BAKED POTATO
Minnesota Sour Cream

TOSSED GREEN SALAD
Choice of French and 1000 Island Dressing

ROLLS and BUTTER

ICE PARFAIT
with Home-Baked Cookies

COFFEE



The Evening's Program

Dinner Chairmen SI WEISMAN and NEIL SHERBURNE
Honorary President, Minnesota Trade
Union Council for Labor Israel

Toastmaster HONORABLE DONALD T. BARBEAU
Chief Judge, Minneapolis Municipal Court

"Star Spangled Banner" Led by MRS. VELVL GREENE
"Hatikva" Accompanied by MRS. ELI ROSENBLUM

Invocation RABBI MAX A. SHAPIRO
Temple Israel, Minneapolis

DINNER

Entertainment "FRANK SINATRA IN ISRAEL"
Latest Film in Color

15th Anniversary of the State of Israel NORBERT HOROWITZ
Histadrut Midwest Executive Director

Vocal Interlude EDIE STADEN
Accompanied by RALPH PRIMM

Presentation of Israeli Gift to
Mrs. Jack (Florence) Jorgensen HON. KARL ROLVAAG
Governor, State of Minnesota

Remarks BENJAMIN BERGER
Honorary President, Minneapolis Israel Histadrut Campaign

Presentation of Solidarity Award to
Mr. Jack J. Jorgensen DR. SAMUEL S. SCHWARTZ
Vice President, Minneapolis Israel Histadrut Campaign

The Guest of Honor JACK J. JORGENSEN
President Teamsters Joint Council No. 32, Minneapolis

Introduction of Guest Speaker STEPHEN NEHOTTE
President Warehouse Union Local No. 359

Address MR. HAROLD J. GIBBONS
Executive Vice President International Brotherhood of Teamsters and
Member of the National Executive Committee of the American
Trade Union Council for Labor Israel — Histadrut

Benediction REVEREND H. T. RASMUSSEN
Richfield Lutheran Church

About Our Honored Guest

Jack J. Jorgensen was born in Enderlin, North Dakota on July 25, 1914. Youngest of eleven children. He attended both grade and high schools in Enderlin. Was an active participant in the High School Choir, as singing was ONE of his great loves. He played on American Junior League Baseball Team and helped win many victories for Enderlin as third baseman.

Came to Twin Cities in 1934. Became an officer of Local No. 359 "Warehouse Employees Union" in 1941. He has been President of Teamsters Joint Council No. 22 since 1943. His International Union named him to many important offices at National Conventions. He is chairman of the Miscellaneous Division of the Central Conference of Teamsters and is on the Policy Board of National Warehouse Conference. He is also serving on the Policy Board of the National Airlines Division. He served as Vice President of the Central Labor Union for one term.

He was the Fifth District Chairman of the D.F.L. party in the late 40's. He was elected to serve as a Delegate to the National Democratic Convention twice. He was appointed Alderman of the 13th Ward in 1954 finishing out the term of the former Alderman Lindsay Arthur when he was appointed Judge.

He is a Past President of Winona School P.T.A. Was appointed to serve on the Governor's Advisory Council on Youth Conservation in 1949. Is a former member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was a Director of the Minneapolis Art Institute for a number of years, a Director on the Aquatennial Board, Director on the Board of Boy Scouts of American Council of Minneapolis and Hospital Fund Drives. He is now serving on the Minnesota Correctional Services Committee. Was presented a citation in 1951 for "Crusade for Freedom," a Community Chest Award for Outstanding Citizenship as co-chairman of Labor Committee in 1958. Was presented a certificate for service in "American Relief for Korea" in 1953 also citation from United Fund. Served on Fund Raising Committee for Harry S. Truman Library in 1955.

He is a member of the Honorary Fire Chiefs Association of Minneapolis, Zuhrah Shrine, Maionie Joppa Lodge No. 300 and Minnetonka Shrine Club.

Member of Richfield Lutheran Church and sang in Senior Choir for a time but reluctantly had to give it up because of conflicting schedules. Served on the National Study Conference of the Church and Economic Life in 1962 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A long standing friend of Israel's Federation of Labor — Histadrut, he joined the newly formed Minnesota Section in 1961.

Minnesota Labor Leader Honored



Left to right — Golde Mair, Foreign Minister of the State of Israel; John F. Curtis, Vice-President, Minnesota State Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Gregory J. Berdecke, Executive Director, American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel, Histadrut. Picture was taken at recent Histadrut convention in New York where John F. Curtis, founder of Minnesota Trade Union Council for Histadrut, was elected co-chairman of the national group. Curtis was also honored last year at the first Histadrut salute to a Minnesotan in the labor movement as Jack Jorgensen is being saluted at this dinner tonight. Mrs. Mair extends felicitations to Curtis for the efforts of organized labor in America for Histadrut and Israel.

Meet Florence Jorgensen

Mrs. Jorgensen was born in Minnesota and is the mother of three children. She has an outstanding record in social and community efforts. She is active in Richfield Lutheran Church. Is a member of the LeSartoma Club. Is active in the March of Dimes. She is a worker for the United Fund, Red Cross, Muscular Dystrophy, Heart Fund and Cerebral Palsy. Worked on the Kanny Park Fund Raising Campaign. Was an officer of the first Ladies Auxiliary of the Teenster Police Education Committee in Minnesota, and continues in an active role. Now active in Blue Birds and Camp Fire Girls.

15th Anniversary of Medinath Israel

OUR HEARTFELT GREETINGS
*To the American Trade Unions for
Their Unselfish Support of Histadrut*
MINNEAPOLIS ISRAEL HISTADRUT
CAMPAIGN



40 YEARS OF HISTADRUT

OFFICERS

BENJAMIN M. BERGER, Honorary President	HOWARD B. BRIN, Vice-President
DR. MOSES BARRON, Honorary Chairman	DR. SAMUEL SCHWARTZ, Vice-President
ELI L. ROSENBLUTH, President	SIGMUND HARRIS, Treasurer
JOSEPH KING, Vice-President	JOSEPH BLUSTEIN, Financial Secretary
J. C. GLICKMAN, Vice-President	PROFESSOR VELVEL GREEN, Recording Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DAVID TURCHICK, Chairman	LOUIS GREENE	MRS. CHAS. RODICH
MRS. MOSES BARRON	HYMAN GORDON	MORTON ROTSTEIN
ARTHUR BERMAN	MRS. JOS. GORDON	RABBI MOSES B. SACHS
NATHAN BERMAN	VICTOR T. KRILL	SAM SADOFF
GERSHON BLACK	MRS. VICTOR KRILL	MRS. SAM'L SCHWARTZ
EZEDOR BRADMAN	ROBERT LEVITT	MYRON SHRELL
SAMUEL BRIDMAN	VICTOR MINTZ	SAMUEL SHURE
EZEKIEL COWL	M. MOORWITZ	MRS. SAM SHURE
WILLIAM DONN	VICTOR ORWELL	JACOB SHILBERG
DR. A. W. FRIEDL	IRVING PARADISE	DR. DE WITTCORF
	MOSES PICHEY	MAY ZIEBMAN

A Call for Action

to all

Minnesota Trade Union Locals

ENROLL AS MEMBERS

in the

*American Trade Union Council
for Labor Israel—Histadrut*

AD ART ADVERTISING COMPANY
MINNEAPOLIS

"Frank Sinatra In Israel"



Christians, Jews and Moslems in the Nazareth area flocked to greet Frank Sinatra whose name will grace the International Brotherhood Youth Center being built in his honor by Histadrut. At right, Sinatra addresses the people of Nazareth before laying of the cornerstone.

Minnesota Labor's First Israel Project



The Minnesota Trade Union Council for Histadrut, under the Chairmanship of John Curtis, is sponsoring the above Histadrut Community Center at Yehud, a suburb six miles from Tel Aviv, inhabited largely by new immigrants. The first phase of fund raising for the project was successfully conducted in 1962 and is followed by tonight's event. Yehud, founded in 1948, has roots in antiquity, having been settled in the days of the Second Temple, as recent archeological finds have verified. It also figured in the times of the Maccabees.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Histadrut
Jorgensen, Jack J.
Testimonial Dinner
JC 32
Invitation

April 29, 1963

Mr. C. P. Chuckray, Comptroller
Central Conference of Teamsters
1641 South Kingshighway
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Sir and Brother:

This will authorize you to make a contribution in the amount of \$200.00, in payment for four tickets to the Testimonial Dinner, being given by the Minnesota Trade Union Council for Labor Israel - Histadrut.

Please forward the check to Jack Jorgenson.

Fraternally yours,

H. J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant
to the General President

HJG/mc

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut
X forgery, Jack
Testimonial Dinner
X C 32
X invitation

April 23, 1963

Mr. Ray Wallin
Teamsters Joliet Council No. 32
706 First Avenue North
Minneapolis 3, Minnesota

Dear Sir and Brother:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 22 asking me to be in Minneapolis on May 15th to attend a committee dinner. This will advise you that I have cleared my calendar to be with you on that date. As soon as my travel schedule is completed I will be in touch with you again.

Fraternally yours.

H. J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJC/yk

Teamsters Joint Council No. 32

APPLICATES WITH THE

JACK A. JORGENSEN
President



706 WEST AVENUE NORTH, MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

International Brotherhood of
TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS of America

JOSEPH F. O'HARE
Secretary-Treasurer

Model 9-1431

AIR MAIL

April 22, 1963

Harold J. Gibbons, Executive Vice-President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave. N.W.
Washington 1, D.C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

We of the teamsters are quite pleased that you have agreed to be principal speaker at the Testimonial Dinner for Brother Jack Jorgensen on May 16th. We are looking forward to seeing you at that time.

However, there will be a special dinner on the night of May 15th for a small number on the Committee, and they have requested that I contact you and ask you if it would be possible for you to clear your schedule to come one day ahead of time and have this dinner with the Committee.

Please let the writer know the date of your arrival, time and flight number, and I will be at the airport to meet you.

Trusting that you can make these arrangements to come one day sooner than the dinner, I remain

Fraternally Yours,

Ray Mallin
Ray Mallin

TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL NO. 32

RW:mm
OKIU #12

Teamsters Joint Council No. 32

AFFILIATED WITH THE



International Brotherhood of
**TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS of America**

JACK J. JORGENSEN
President

706 FIRST AVENUE NORTH, MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

JOSEPH F. O'HARE
Secretary-Treasurer

Federal 9-1431

March 22, 1963

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut
- Jorgensen, Jack J. -
- Testimonial Dinner
- JC 32
- Invitation

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons, Vice Pres.
Int. Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue N.W.
Washington 1, D.C.

Dear Harold,

I am writing again in regard to the Testimonial Dinner in my honor on behalf of Histadrut to be held in Minneapolis, at which you are to be the principal speaker.

It has become necessary to change the date to Thursday, May 16th instead of Saturday, May 18th as originally planned. The Committee would appreciate it very much if you would confirm this speaking engagement so that final arrangements can be made.

Perhaps you will be able to arrive on the 15th and then we can have dinner together that night.

Please advise -- with best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours,

TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL #32

Jack J. Jorgensen, President

JJJ:fq
oeiu 12

110 Stock Building
2031 West Superior St.

Phone: RAndolph 2-8140

MILK DRIVERS AND DAIRY EMPLOYEES LOCAL No. 32



— Affiliated with me —
MINNESOTA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR
DULUTH FEDERATED TRADES ASSEMBLY
TEAMSTERS' JOINT COUNCIL NO. 32
AFL - CIO
I. B. OF T. C. W. AND H. OF A.



DULUTH, MINNESOTA

March 6, 1963

Mr. L. N. Steinberg,
Personal Representative to the President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave., N.W.,
Washington 1, D.C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

We wish to thank you and the General President for accepting our invitation to be the guest of honor and speaker at our 30th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, September 28, 1963. We are also hoping that Mrs. Hoffa will accompany our General President.

We will be in contact with you at a later date in reference to making hotel reservations for Mr. Hoffa.

RCD/mc

Fraternally yours,

R. C. Doty (mc)
Russell C. Doty, Sec'y-Treas.
Milk Drivers Local Union #32

28 February 1963

Mr. Russell C. Doty, Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local Union No. 32
110 Stack Building
2031 West Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Sir and Brother:

Your letter addressed to President Hoffa was referred to him in the city of Philadelphia, hence the reason for the delay in acknowledging your kind invitation to be the principal speaker at your 30th Anniversary.

As soon as you arrive at a definite date, please let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements for President Hoffa to be present.

Fraternaly yours,

L. N. Steinberg
Personal Representative to the
General President

LMS:gw

110 Stock Building
2031 West Superior St.

Phone: BAndolph 2-8140

MILK DRIVERS AND DAIRY EMPLOYEES LOCAL No. 32



— Affiliated with the —
MINNESOTA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR
DULUTH FEDERATED TRADES ASSEMBLY
TEAMSTERS' JOINT COUNCIL NO. 32
AFL - CIO
I. B. OF T. C. W. AND H. OF A.



DULUTH, MINNESOTA

Feb. 20, 1963

Mr. James R. Hoffa, General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue N.W.,
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

The Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Local Union #32 will
celebrate their 30th Anniversary this fall, tentative dates
either September 20 or October 5.

We would like to extend an invitation to you and Mrs. Hoffa
to be the guests of honor and you to be the main speaker for
this event.

To my knowledge, you have never appeared at any gathering in
the Duluth area and I feel that this would be an opportune time
for our members to meet you.

Would you please let us know if you will be able to accept the
above invitation and which date would be most suitable for you.

RCD/mc

Fraternally yours,

Russell C. Doty
Russell C. Doty, Sec'y-Treas.
Milk Drivers Local Union #32

10-107
FOLLOW FILE
DATE *May 10*
BY *Mary Mc*

Teamsters Joint Council No. 32

AFFILIATED WITH THE

International Brotherhood of

TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS

of America

706 FIRST AVENUE NORTH, MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

Federal 9-1431

JOSEPH F. O'HARE
Secretary-Treasurer

November 28, 1962

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Histo duct
Jorgensen Jack J.
Testimonial Dinner
fc 32
Division

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons, Vice President
Int. Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue N.W.
Washington 1, D.C.

Dear Harold,

The Testimonial Dinner honoring me on behalf of
Hiatadrut will be held in Minneapolis on
Saturday, May 18, 1963 as originally planned.

Schedule as follows:

International Ballroom
Hotel Pick-Nicollet
Reception -- 5:30 P.M.
Dinner ----- 6:30 P.M.

I am looking forward to seeing you there and
am most happy that you will be the principle
speaker.

Hotel reservations have been taken care of and
you will be notified well in advance of the
arrangements.

Thanking you, I remain

Faternally yours,

TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL NO. 32

Jack J. Jorgensen
Jack J. Jorgensen, President

JJJ:fq
oeiu 12

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
CHAUFFEURS • WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS
OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF
MURRAY W. HILLER
VICE PRESIDENT
original of
Personal -
Dixon, M. Ralph -
Report W

September 10, 1962



1330 N. INDUSTRIAL BLVD
DALLAS 7, TEXAS

Mr. James R. Hoffa, General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Handwritten signature

Dear Sir and Brother:

The week ending July 22nd, we held a meeting of the Southern Teamsters Educational Association, Inc. The balance of the week was spent holding the Southwest Area Grievance Committee sessions.

The week ending July 29th, I spent in Miami, Florida, attending the Policy Committee meetings of the Southern Conference of Teamsters.

The week of August 5th, I attended the National Conference of Teamsters Lawyers' meeting in San Francisco.

The week ending August 12th, I, along with the rest of the Committee, was in negotiations with Braswell Freight Lines, and the balance of the week in the Dallas office.

During the week ending August 19th, I held meetings with the Local Unions and Ryder Systems concerning proposed change of operations under the Garage Agreement. I had a meeting with the Operators and Union representatives on grievance cases. I had a meeting in Fort Worth with our attorneys and the National Labor Relations Board on Braswell. I had a meeting with a Mr. Horowitz, a representative of the American Trades Council for Histadrut of Israel.

The week ending August 26th, I was in meetings with various companies and Local Union representatives relative

Mr. James R. Hoffa

-2-

September 10, 1962

to problems, as well as holding the Southwest Joint Area Grievance sessions the balance of the week.

For week ending September 2nd, I was in hearings before the National Labor Relations Board and also a witness in regard to our unfair labor practices charge against Braswell, during which we were able to get the Board to amend the complaint which had been issued by the Board and then the Board recessed the hearings until September 18th, to allow the company time to answer the amended charges.

For the week ending September 9th, held meetings with Herrin Transportation officials in regard to a proposed merger. Also had a meeting with a representative of the Treasury Department by the name of Taylor who said he was here to give us information on how to fill out forms required by the Treasury Department covering employees. I had a meeting with the Area Grievance Committee, and a meeting with our attorney concerning Braswell, then on Saturday we had another meeting of negotiations with Braswell Freight Lines.

With best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours,

M. Ralph Dixon
M. Ralph Dixon
General Organizer

MRD:bb

cc: Vice President Miller

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Histadrut

February 23, 1962

Mr. Gregory Bardacke
Histadrut
33 E 67th Street
New York, New York

Dear Greg:

The attached is self-explanatory. How come
I haven't received a copy of Mr. Malkosh's book on Histadrut.

Faternally yours,

H. J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJG/yk
Enc.

February 23, 1962

Mr. Charles F. Lindsay, Secretary-Treas.
Teamsters Joint Council No. 54
3245 Elliot Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir and Brother:

Greg Bardacke has forwarded me a copy of his letter to you of February 21st in which he thanks you for helping on promoting a Histadrut dinner in Denver.

I am very happy to hear of this activity by one of our local unions and want to extend to you my congratulations. Over and above any problems we have in America, it is my conviction that we have a responsibility to concern ourselves with people less fortunate than ourselves. It seems to me that the people of Israel are in this category and should receive our assistance in their great effort of building a productive, democratic society in Israel.

Again, my congratulations.

Faternally yours,

H. J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJG/yh
cc: Greg Bardacke

COPY

February 21, 1962

Mr. Charles E. Lindsay, Secretary
Local 442, Int'l. Bro. of Teamsters
3243 Elliot Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Brother Lindsay:

Our Herbert Horowitz has told us of your great assistance in our Histadrut dinner in Denver. We want you to know how much we appreciate your help. We also acknowledge with thanks membership of Local 442 in the American Trade Union Council. You will shortly receive your membership plaque. You will also be receiving our literature regularly.

In the meantime I am sending you under separate cover Mr. Halkosh's book on Histadrut. This will enable you to understand more thoroughly the structure and activities of our sister trade union in Israel.

We are most anxious to enroll as many local unions as possible in the American Trade Union Council. The SAT does, of course, will be very helpful to Histadrut in carrying out its many welfare programs. But in addition, we would very much like to put our literature in the hands of as many trade unionists as possible. We believe that this type of educational activity will bring a greater understanding between our own unions and the Histadrut which is doing so much for democracy and free trade unionism in a part of the world where slavery is still a way of life. If we are successful in our membership drive, our brothers and sisters in Israel will get a tremendous moral lift for the tasks which still confront them.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters have given the Histadrut an exceptional amount of moral and financial assistance. Your union has contributed \$300,000 towards the building of a children's home in the Jerusalem Mountains. This home takes care of 120 orphaned youngsters who would not have had the same chance in life if it weren't for the generosity and understanding of your International and its many affiliated locals.

Hubert:
Please write to
Lindsay and tell
him what a nice thing
he is doing.
Greg

- 2 -

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Harold Gibbons who has been a true and loyal friend of Hiatt-drum. I am sure that he will pass this information on to President James Hoffa.

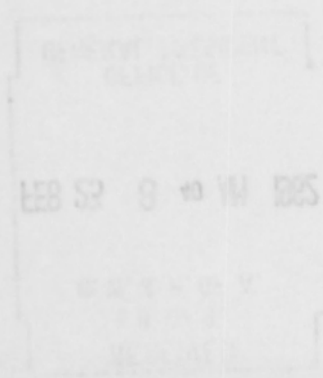
Again, accept our grateful thanks. Anything that you can do to promote our membership drive will be very much appreciated.

Fraternally yours,

GJB/ig
cc: 133

Gregory J. Bardacke
Executive Director

c M. Harold Gibbons





SEALTEST FOODS

DIVISION OF NATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCTS CORPORATION
PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

November 20, 1961

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

X Sealtest Foods

X

Mr. W. J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to the
General President
International Brotherhood of
Teamsters, Chauffeurs,
Warehousemen & Helpers
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

Thank you for your letter of November 14th. I have
instructed our Treasurer to send a donation to Histadrut,
as you suggested, which we are very pleased to do.

Thanks again for being with us last month.

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin J. McIntosh
Edwin J. McIntosh
Asst. Gen. Mgr. Marketing

EDM:PMW

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut
X972-500 - Bardack
Mr. G. Bardack 8/1/61

August 1, 1961

Mr. G. Bardack
HISTADRUT
33 E. 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mr. Bardack:

The attached correspondence
is self-explanatory. I am sending them to you
for your information.

Yours very truly,

H. J. Gibbon
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJG:ld
Att.



THOMAS J. LLOYD
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
PATRICK E. GORMAN
INTERNATIONAL SECY-TREAS.

Amalgamated
*Meat Cutters and
Butcher Workmen*

OF NORTH AMERICA
AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

2800 N. SHERIDAN ROAD CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS

July 28, 1961

Messrs. James R. Hoffa
General President and
John F. English
General Secretary-Treasurer
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brothers Hoffa and English:

Caught in the mesh of our usual summertime activities including conferences of various types plus serious preparations for our national Packinghouse negotiations which are already upon us, we have been unable to reply to your letter of July 14, 1961 before now.

We assure you, however, that the delay in acknowledging receipt of your generous support in the amount of \$2000.00 for the Patrick E. Gorman Project for Histadrut in no way detracts from our appreciation of your cooperation in this worthy endeavor.

We shall be happy to include your advertisement in this behalf in the September-October, 1961 issue of The Butcher Workman.

Thanks again for your cooperation.

With our very best wishes, we are

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Lloyd
President

Patrick E. Gorman
Secretary-Treasurer

dc





Office of the General President

To: Mr. English

From: James R. Hoffa

RE: Donation - Patrick E. Gorman Project for Histadrut

Pursuant to action taken at the General Executive Board meeting held in Miami Beach on June 27, 1961, this will authorize the issuance of a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 made payable to Patrick E. Gorman Project for Histadrut.

James R. Hoffa
General President

JRH/yk
Attachment

to BIRM

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

X973-CDO-Butcher

X973-CDO-Butcher

X973-CDO-Butcher

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Office of the General President
To: Mr. English

From: James R. Hoffa
RE: Donation - Patrick E. Gorman Project for Histadrut

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Histadrut
X - See in Bd. Mtg. 6/16/61
X
DATE 7/12/61

Pursuant to action taken at the General Executive Board meeting held in Miami Beach on June 29, 1961, this will authorize the issuance of a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 made payable to Patrick E. Gorman Project for Histadrut.

JRH/yk
Attachment

James R. Hoffa
General President

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE ✓

History

X CORE

X

March 6, 1959

Mr. James R. Robinson, Sec.
C. O. R. E.
38 Park Row
New York 38, New York

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Much as I regret to write I must advise you that CORE cannot expect a contribution at this time from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

We have received many requests from very worthwhile causes, but have consistently turned down all contributions to any type organization. This including matching funds for our own local unions is our organizing efforts.

Fraternally yours,

H. J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJG/yk

core

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

A National Organization with affiliated local groups working to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

38 Park Row

CORfiled 7-0408

New York 38, New York

15

January 26, 1959

Mr. Harold Gibbons, Acting Director
National Warehouse Division
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

In December I wrote you about the possibilities of your securing some significant financial aid for CORE from the International or from one of its subdivisions.

Our need for help has increased greatly since my first letter. My report to our National Council meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, last weekend -- copy of which is enclosed -- reflects the concern we feel about financing as well as the unprecedented growth of CORE activity the past few months.

I should appreciate a note from you telling me whether there is any possibility of securing some assistance from your organization.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Robinson
James R. Robinson
Executive Secretary

enc.

OFFICERS

Charles E. O'Dell
Chairman
Henry Hodge
Vice Chairman
Anna Halden
Secretary
Lula Farmer
Treasurer

Field Representatives:
Seymour Beall
James L. Pomeroy, Jr.
Walter Hayes
George M. Houser
Herbert C. Kelman

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Roger M. Bellamy
Alton Knight Chalmers
Harold Gibbons
B. Stanley Jones
Martin Luther King
Will Maslow
Dorothy Maynor
A. J. Muste

A. Philip Randolph
Rev. Dea. Reid
Arnold M. Rose
George S. Schuyler
Lillian Smith
Howard Thurman
Goodwin Watson
Charles S. Zimmerman

STAFF

Gordon R. Carey
Field Secretary
James T. McCole
Field Secretary
James Pack
CORE Editor
James R. Robinson
Executive Secretary

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT (NEW GROUPS):

The affiliation applications, treated first on the Council Agenda, speak for themselves. They result from the work of the local leaders, from work done by other locals, from the efforts of National Chairman Charles Oldham and Former National Secretary Marian Oldham, and, of course, from the efforts of our two field secretaries.

Other groups have also met, and some of these are expected to survive and affiliate. This includes Boston CORE, on the formation of which Field Representative Herbert Kalman and former New York CORE Chairman Charles Crawford assisted Gordon Carey.

In addition to tentative groups mentioned in the Reports of the Field Secretaries, it should be mentioned that, as a result of Vice-Chairman Henry Hodge's field trip to Portland and Seattle, a group did meet in Seattle at least for a time. Communication with this group has not been good, and it is probable that the group will have to be re-formed during the West Coast field trip.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

In accordance with Convention Decision to hire a second Field Secretary if finances permitted, Gordon R. Carey was hired on August 1st. His field work has been conspicuously successful. The idea that he would take over a large portion of the program planning and field trip planning has been only partially realized because of the necessity to keep him almost constantly in the field. His handling of the office during my January vacation indicates that he is thoroughly competent to take over most of the program and field planning if we can release him more frequently from the field. This becomes possible if we are able to add yet another field secretary, and we are fortunate to have one prospect for this opening.

By mid-Fall, the increase of work in the National Office, including an enormous increase in clerical work, made it evident that a secretary or clerk-typist was essential. Our faithful Treasurer, Lula Farmer, spent many days in the office typing receipts, changing addresses, and mailing Holiday Cards -- while her regular bookkeeping work necessarily fell behind. As Lula's new baby will undoubtedly conspire to keep her Mother out of the office, it was also evident that the new staff person would have to be able to handle much financial detail. In December, Mrs. Hortense Sawyer joined the office staff. Her previous experience was in Federal Civil Service and with an adoption agency in New York City. Interestingly enough, she was brought up in Little Rock. Lula Farmer plans to continue to maintain all the bookkeeping records of the organization. McCain, Peck and myself have, of course, continued on the staff.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE: (figures from June 1, 1958 through February 16, 1959)

RECRUITMENT (Fund-Raising from NEW names: persons on CORE list who respond to these outside appeals are not credited under Recruitment, but under Maintenance). Since June 1, 1958, 105,115 appeal letters, most enclosing Anna Holden's pamphlet, have been sent out. 3,625 NEW persons have contributed and have been added to the CORE list. The money contributed from this source totals \$21,299.00. Average contribution, \$5.87. Percentage response, just short of 3%. As we have usually considered 2% adequate, our returns to date this year have been most unusual --

particularly since we used untested and magazine lists rather heavily, and such lists had not usually proved productive in the past. We cannot maintain this level in the future.

MAINTENANCE: Financial contributions from our regular list have been good, but not spectacular. It is too early to tell how the February appeal based on the Virginia Pilgrimage will make out. The number of gifts of \$300 or more is not increasing. Maintenance costs have risen as we now have ADDRESS O RITE maintain our stencils, cutting all new stencils, filing them, & removing all old stencils. Also, the rapid addition of new names causes much maintenance work for the card records in the office. Fortunately, in addition to editing the CORElator and preparing both the picture story of the Richmond Pilgrimage and copy for a longer pamphlet to replace Erasing the Color Line, Jim Peck has given much time to doing the multiplicitous change-of-address work.

Financial situation of CORE has become very difficult to analyze and forecast this year. In the first eight months of the year, we took in six thousand dollars more than our budget envisioned for the entire fiscal year. We spent in the same eight months approximately what we had planned to spend in the whole year. This is the first time that the budget, prepared on estimates worked out by Lula Farmer and myself, has not been close to the realization. Chapter development, program and office have all expanded also far beyond our estimates at the 1958 Convention. We had hoped to add one field secretary; we did that and added an office clerk-typist also, and now have hopes of adding a second field secretary. The problem is evident: how can we increase financial backing to insure that needed growth will not be curtailed by stringency? At the rate we have been going, an income of almost \$70,000 is an indicated need for this fiscal year. In contrast to total income of about \$25,000 for all of last year, this is an enormous figure. Frankly, I do not see at this point how we can do it. Necessary steps will be clearer when we have discovered whether the recent Brotherhood Month appeal to our own list is successful. Some further mailing to outside lists is possible, but this is apt to run up costs as fast as receipts as we have already used our best lists this year. Several methods might be tried: (1) approaching our larger donors for increased gifts (not too simple as we do not have tax deductibility for contributions); (2) approaching labor unions (this should be a good source, but the small amount of work so far done on it has been unproductive); (3) fund-raising dinner (this would require big-name speaker and hiring a temporary employee experienced in dinners to handle it).

My general feeling is that we face financial difficulty and that we need every support, including support from affiliated groups.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION:

A FIRST STEP TOWARD SCHOOL INTEGRATION. The fact that over 100,000 copies of this pamphlet have been used speaks for itself. It has been ordered by numerous libraries, etc. Yet the bulk was used with fund appeals, and it is the response from these that indicates this is the best item we have ever issued. The great amount of work done to distribute through other organizations and groups and the ad placed in THE CRISIS were both relatively unsuccessful. Apparently for distribution of any pamphlet which forwards the name of CORE as well as a technique, we can count on extremely little help from other groups. The only order for 1,000 copies imprinted came from Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE TO MASSIVE RESISTANCE, the story of the March on Richmond, is chiefly a promotional piece, and we were disappointed in the appearance of the first page. 22,000 copies in stock.

NONVIOLENCE AGAINST JIMCROW. Jim Peck has written a first draft of this pamphlet, aimed at replacing *ETASIN: THE COLOR LINE and CORE, A BRIEF HISTORY*. The National Action Committee has approved the idea of producing this pamphlet, with photos and/or drawings. Copy, however, is still open to revisions. In general, the action stories, selected from different periods in CORE's history and featuring different groups are excellent. The integration of the HISTORY into this pamphlet is, in my opinion, more open to question: to make it short enough not to impede the pace also leaves it distinctly incomplete. But I am sure that the pamphlet will be produced in satisfactory form before the Convention. It cannot, of course, create the wide interest by general readers that *A FIRST STEP* enjoyed. It will be useful to the groups, but probably not useable with appeals except to our own mailing list.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL. A few copies of the preliminary mimeographed edition are available at this Council meeting. This was prepared by Charles R. Oldham and seemed to cover the subject so well that relatively little editing was done. We should like to lighten it with cartoon-type drawings, but have no definite idea for drawing the cartoons. Careful study of this MANUAL by the older groups is recommended; its suggestions should help them as much as the newer locals. We expect this to be a vital tool for use by our field secretaries in the formation of new groups.

THIS IS CORE and CORE RULES FOR ACTION continue to be used rather steadily by some of our affiliates. It will probably be necessary to reprint *THIS IS CORE* in the near future. If so, we shall use white rather than gray paper to make it more distinguishable from *RULES FOR ACTION*, of which we still have a generous supply.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION. A cheap offset of Jim Peck's column on this topic, with a few additions typed on, will be issued late in March. This will be helpful in answering questions about housing on an open occupancy basis. It will not deal with public housing even though sloppy handling of integration in this area is doing much damage to the cause of integration generally: this is too technical for brief handling.

ADMINISTRATION

This budget item includes office equipment, rent, phone, Council & Convention arrangements, portions of the salaries of all employees, all vacation salaries, etc. Rent, including electricity & cleaning, has risen from \$49.50 monthly on the old office to \$132 on the new. A good bit of equipment has been essential, including an adding machine, two typewriters, etc.

We are concerned about the great increase in Administration Expenses and hope that Council delegates will hold down travel requests as far as possible (up to one-half of r.t. rail coach is allowed official voting delegates).

Convention: June 14th to 19th at Presbyterian Conference Grounds, Pacific Palisades (suburb of Los Angeles), California. Although some questions were raised

about the West Coast location after so many new groups appeared east of the Mississippi, the West Coast area was designated by the last Convention. Also, Henry Hodge has done some field work on the West Coast, and Gordon Carey plans to be on the Coast from May 1st or earlier through the Convention. This may facilitate attendance by any new groups which develop there. Also, at last year's Convention, many people felt that Easterners would enjoy combining the Convention with a West Coast vacation trip.

The Conference Grounds appears to be ideal in its arrangements. Cost is \$6 per person per day plus \$1.50 for one set of bedding for the whole period. A guarantee of 25 persons for the whole period has been made. A guarantee count must be submitted to the Camp Management well in advance. This indicates the necessity to collect advance deposits so that we can guarantee the exact number.

No travel subsidy whatever is available to the five delegates permitted each affiliated group unless we set up a Convention Travel Pool. This cannot, in view of our situation, be taken from the Treasury, but must be made up by some form of Travel Pool Fund to which the groups or the delegates contribute. If the Council feels some such plan might be feasible, I suggest we set up a Committee to formulate the details and report back to the Council for final action.

Plans for a dinner in L. A. in connection with the Convention have not been made. Henry Hodge will report on plans for a Weekend Workshop in L. A. to precede the Conference-Convention. Plans for the Conference have also not been made, but it was the strong feeling of the 1958 Convention that all persons on the national CORE list might be invited.

There has also been some question about having two national meetings each year -- the Council and the Convention. If there is time, this should be discussed now.

One argument advanced for holding only the Annual Conference-Convention is that we now expect local affiliates to send delegates twice a year to governing bodies of the National Organization. The feeling is that we might get larger attendance if there were only one meeting.

The argument against cutting down to one meeting a year is that, unless other arrangements are made, the National is run for a whole year by the Staff and the National Action Committee without the democratic check which the Council now provides. Some also question whether more delegates would be forthcoming if there were one annual meeting instead of two.

HOLIDAY CARDS:

The Treasurer's Report makes it obvious that we were much more successful this year than last. The idea for next year is two new cards, one of them more or less conventional, plus the two cards offered this past year. Much heavier promotion (from 100,000 to 200,000 pieces of direct mail) plus the employment of one temporary employee to handle the card orders is contemplated. New names from Holiday Card sales increased our list this year by at least 600 names. The use of the cards helps spread the name of CORE. A large profit margin is not expected. Some salary time is, of course, charged off to the Card account. With allocation of this type, this year's sale will probably result in a loss of \$200 to \$300. It

should be pointed out, however, that the salary would have to be paid anyway: this is a bookkeeping rather than an actual loss to the organization.

FILM:

The proposal to do a film based on Nashville's work on school integration is still alive. It cannot be done out of regular funds. We are now waiting to get time to circularize the Foundations to try to find one to finance the film and issue it in its name. This is the only method which is possible as contributions to CORE itself are not tax deductible and we would therefore stand little chance of getting money from Foundations for us to produce the film. I am personally dubious that this film will ever materialize.

PROGRAM:

The chief item under this heading as distinguished from "Chapter Development" are two: (1) James T. McCain's participation in the Friends Conference on Race Relations last August at Westtown, Pennsylvania and (2) the Pilgrimage of Prayer for Public Schools in Richmond Virginia on January 1, 1959, led by Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker with most important assistance from Gordon Carey.

(1) While a Conference is always somewhat limited, James McCain's work with this one must have been exceptional as it led to favorable comment to the office and one very sizeable contribution.

(2) The success of the Richmond March was astonishing: we had hoped for success but without anticipating what actually happened. In other reports, you are receiving the details. All I wish to add is that Gordon Carey's work to see that CORE received publicity in connection with the Pilgrimage was excellent, and we received more publicity on this one activity than we usually receive in a whole year of activities. This can prove of vital importance in the building of new groups in Virginia. It builds some base should we decide to hold a regional Workshop there in July.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

This item normally belongs with "Public Information and Education." I am treating it separately because it is largely a hope at this point: we have virtually no publicity set-up. This affects both the ability to form new groups and the ability to raise funds.

We now have a national list of Negro newspapers and magazines on address stencils so that press releases can be sent. Copies of the CORElator were mailed to this list. Dramatic actions by local CORE groups should be written up in press-release form and sent out. Because of the necessity for speed, local groups will usually have to send the releases themselves. If such dramatic actions can be anticipated, the National Office will usually be able to address the envelope and send them to the local group so that they may prepare the releases and mail them immediately after the action. We plan, also, to include the newspaper list when we next prepare a list of contacts in the local groups. This will mean that each affiliated group will have the newspaper list. Major dailies such as the Washington Post, The New York Times, etc., should also receive the release if it has sufficient interest; and, of course, the local dailies should get it unless there is

some reason to be reticent with them.

This work, by itself, is not sufficient for the National Organization. Albert Ettinger, formerly active with CORE, has put us in touch with a public relations man who had experience with another organization. There is some slight chance that he might be able himself to handle CORE as an "account." But he was inclined to think we should investigate use of the Harold Oram Public Relations firm both for publicity purposes and for direct-mail fund-raising. The National Action Committee recognizes the necessity for publicity build-up, but has some doubt about use of a professional fund-raiser. More investigation is to be done. Expressions of opinion by the National Council might be helpful on this issue should use of a firm such as Oram actually become a possibility.

As matters stand now, we know our public relations is not being done systematically, but we have no immediate knowledge of what the best steps are likely to be.

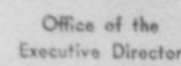
CONCLUSION:

The development of CORE nationally and locally since June 1958 has been most remarkable. Congratulations are in order to the local groups, the national officers and staff. We hope we can grow at an even faster pace. But we cannot deny that growing pains exist, particularly financially, and we must approach the future with some trepidation as well as with optimism.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Robinson
Executive Secretary

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



Honorary Vice-Chairmen

Officers

Mon. Fairman
Chairman

Joseph G. Cole

David Rogers

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

David Gonzalez
Chairman, Nat'l Exec. Comm.

J. H. COLLINGS
Chairman, Admin. Comm.

PAUL L. LARSEN
President

NATHANIEL M. MINOFF
Associate Professor

FAIRY BIRDS

Financial Secretary
WILLIAM M. KILGORE

Associate Financial

Max Gerson
Recording Secretary

GREGORY J. BARNETT

Executive Director
Municipal Board

Associate Director

MAURICE BUCK
Assistant Director

December 11, 1958

Mr. Harold Gibbons, Acting Director
National Warehouse Division
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave., N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Hal:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to you from Jim Robinson which he had sent to St. Louis, since I feel that it is more likely that you will be in Washington.

It would seem to me that CIO is one of the most deserving of all the organizations in the field of race relations. It does a consistently good job on a comparatively small budget. A contribution from the international or from one of the sub-divisions might be applied to a specific project such as voter registration. It could, of course, bring in very substantial public relations dividends in the Negro press and elsewhere.

Do think about this. I hope to see you when you are in New York.

Cordially,

Marvin Rich

ONLY TO MARVIN RICH Return if convenient.

December 9, 1958

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons
P.O. Box #688
1541 South Kingshighway
St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

I am enclosing "A Call for a Prayer Pilgrimage to Richmond for Public Schools," to be held on Emancipation Day, January 1, and to be co-sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Virginia State Conference of NAACP. Participation will be largely restricted to Virginians to avoid the usual charge of "northern interference," and it seems likely that at least one thousand Virginians will participate.

Although the idea for this demonstration arose in our CORE groups in Virginia, it could not have materialized without substantial assistance from National CORE. Not only have we released Gordon R. Carey, one of our field secretaries, from other field plans so that he can devote a full seven days a week to assisting Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker in coordinating the project, but we have also advanced financial assistance (most of which we hope will be returned).

This project, designed to show that mass support for integration can counterbalance Virginia's "massive resistance," is just one of the opportunities CORE has had recently. It is evident that there is a demand and a need for a greatly expanded CORE program. We are expanding to the limit of our abilities, but, because we cannot get sufficient financial support, we are not growing fast enough to meet all demands.

I am therefore writing to ask you to secure major and significant support from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

We are doing everything possible in building up a list of individual contributors. We have nearly twice as many of these as one year ago, and total income of \$25,000 last year (ended May 31, 1958) may be doubled in the current year. We are not asking for help in lieu of seeking it ourselves, but we realize that we cannot, without assistance from new sources, increase our budget and staff adequately.

You might be interested in the personnel of our National Action Committee, which determines policy and makes the decision on
(cont'd)

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons

Page Two

December 9, 1958

how the organization is to develop. I list the members:

LeRoy Carter, Industrial Commissioner's Office
Iula Farmer, formerly with the Institute of International Education; CORE treasurer
James Farmer, AFSCME organizer
George Houser, American Committee on Africa
James Peck, writer; editor of the COMMITTEE
Marvin Rich, HITTITE Israel Campaign (formerly with Teamsters)
Thomas L. Roberts, of Itkin, Roberts & Greenbaum, 270 Madison Avenue.

At yesterday's meeting of this Committee, it was decided that one full-time secretarial assistant will be employed in our office (up to this point I have had no secretarial assistance at all); that Rev. Wendell Foster, formerly active in New York City CORE and now pastor of the largest AME church in Bermuda, will be added to the Field Staff on June 1st if finances permit. Planning a systematic public relations and publicity program was also discussed. We have virtually no program at all of this type at present, but we felt we could not reach more than tentative conclusions at this time.

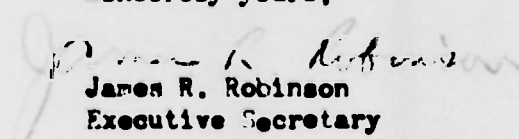
CORE's emphasis upon direct action of a nonviolent type should appeal to the Brotherhood of Teamsters. Because CORE is not a tax-deductible organization (we are similar to ACLU and ADA in this respect), we need labor union support much more than groups which secure large contributions from wealthy donors who are able to charge most of the gift off as money which would otherwise have been spent in taxes.

Although a number of labor unions, largely locals, do make annual contributions to CORE, no large contributions have ever come in from union sources, and I would suspect that a good deal less than 1% of all contributions come from this source.

I should hope that you will be able to secure major contributions to CORE not only from the International itself but also from a good number of its locals and regionals.

I know that you must feel that CORE has an important contribution to make to American race relations or you would not have been willing to serve on our Advisory Committee. I am counting on you to help us during this period of crisis and growth. Should you need further data on our finances or any other aspect of our program, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,


James R. Robinson
Executive Secretary

Copy: Charles R. Oldham, Esq.
National CORE Chairman
5110 Palm
St. Louis 15, Missouri

Address by The Hon. Armand D'Angelo
Commissioner
Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity
Installation Dinner
American Trade Union Council for Histadrut
January 28, 1959
The Astor, New York City

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

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I am very happy to be here this evening and to have this opportunity to share with the members of the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut in this very wonderful occasion.

For although my name is D'Angelo and although my own family background reflects a heritage which stems from an area of the Mediterranean many hundreds of miles from the shores of Israel -- I, too, rejoice as you do -- in the birth, the early struggles and the growing maturity of the great, young, vibrant land which has benefited so greatly from your dedication.

Indeed, it would be very strange if any American regardless of religious creed, national background or any of the social and cultural differences which distinguish one man from another could remain unmoved by the saga of Israel, by the breadth of the human concept which is Israel, by the courage of its people, or by the devotion of its friends in other lands.



Commissioner D'Angelo

It would be stranger still if I as a lifelong trade unionist could fail to take great inspiration from the magnificent work which my fellow trade unionists throughout our country have contributed to the development of a strong and vigorous labor movement in Israel.

For me, it is a very great privilege to participate in the activities of an organization such as the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut and to contribute in some small personal measure to the material and moral support which are so vital to the democratic tradition which the people of Israel today are building for the spiritual nourishment of future generations.

As some of you may know, I had the opportunity last year -- through our Mayor, Robert F. Wagner, to visit Israel and to see at first hand many of the astonishing economic, industrial and agricultural developments which her people have fostered during the past decade.

I wish that everyone could be as fortunate as I; for the experience of witnessing at first hand all of the modern miracles that the sons and daughters of Israel have wrought in their homeland is something that will remain in my memory for the rest of my life, as proof of man's faith in his fellow-man and of the reality of courage and vision in our troubled times.

A decade ago, the vision of Israel shone as a beacon of freedom which promised light and hope for Jews throughout the world comparable only to the lantern uplifted toward heaven by our own statue of liberty to guide oppressed people of all nations to America's shores.

con'd.

The vision of Israel today has been transformed into the achievements of courageous pioneers, of men and women and of children too, who have labored with love, with devotion and with sublime faith to recreate a nation that first rose to greatness thousands of years ago.

The story of Israel today is an inspiring account of the establishment of a democratic nation where man and women and children live without fear, secure in the knowledge that they may worship God each according to his own conscience and heritage and pledged to protect and to advance the welfare and well-being of his neighbors.

Many of the brightest chapters in that story have been penned by the men and women of the General Federation of Labor in Israel, the Histadrut.

This community, for it is just that, of more than half a million workers in every phase of labor in every part of Israel so thoroughly permeates the life of the nation that it is literally impossible to think of Israel without immediately recalling the incredible achievements of Histadrut.

Throughout the land, the living functioning monuments to the concept of Israel which have been lovingly created by Histadrut bear witness to the strength and vitality of the organization. Modern hospitals, medical clinics, trade schools, cultural centers, youth centers, housing projects - all of these life-giving enterprises draw their strength and owe their very existence to the dynamism of Histadrut. And in a very large measure the dynamic success of Histadrut stems from the financial, moral and political support lavished upon it by the American Labor Movement through the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut.

The great fraternal relationship between Labor in Israel and Labor in America has been permanently recorded in the roll of institutions erected and maintained by Histadrut. The William Green Cultural Center in Haifa; the Philip Murray Cultural Center in Eilat; the ILGWU Hospital in Beersheba - these are just a few of the monumental Histadrut edifices which bear the names of revered American labor leaders and prominent American labor organizations - in testimonial to the warm spirit of friendship which exists between the working people of these two great nations.

And it is you, my good friends, the officers and members of the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut, who have helped to build these monuments, who have breathed life into them and who have helped to transform a great dream into a still greater reality. Your unselfish, your openhearted, your immensely generous gifts of time and effort and money to the cause of labor and social justice in Israel certainly have made possible the greatest national success story in modern history.

Tonight, as we accept the new and renewed pledges of faith in this great humanitarian enterprise of the new and re-elected officers of the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut let us pause, too, with gratitude and happiness in our hearts, with prayers on our lips and with the fervent hope that Almighty God will continue to bestow His benediction upon us, upon our brethren in Israel and upon all working men and women, upon all of our fellow human beings who share our faith in His power and His love.

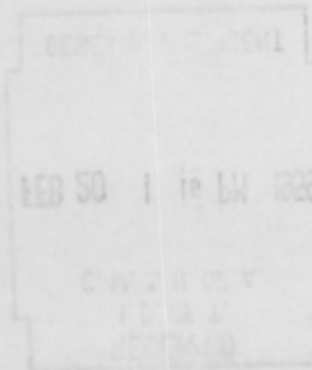
It is now my privilege to introduce the following newly elected officers: Honorary Chairman, Claude Jodoin; Honorary Vice-Chairmen George M. Harrison, Donald MacDonald and David J. McDonald; and Co-Chairmen Bernard Shane and Harold Hanover; Members of the National Executive Committee - Shelley Appleton, William Collins, Stava Fadaroff, Samuel H. Friedman, Samuel Herbst, Samuel Kraisman, Joel Menist, Jack Palay, Frederick H. Simas, and David Weisman.

con'd.

The following officers have all been reelected to their present posts:
Chairman Mos Falikman; Co-Chairmen Joseph Gold, David Siegal and Norman Zukowsky;
National Executive Committee Chairman David Gingold; Administrative Committee
Chairman I. H. Goldberg; Treasurer Philip Lubliner; Associate Treasurer Nathaniel M.
Minkoff; Financial Secretary Frank Brown; Associate Financial Secretary Murray M.
Kolker; Recording Secretary Max Goodman; Executive Director Gregory J. Bardacke;
Associate Director Mordecai Barlas; and Assistant Director Marvin Rich.

My friends, it has been both a pleasure and a very great honor to join you
here this evening and to pay tribute to the wonderful work that you are doing.

Thank you and God bless you all.



ARABS IN HISTADRUT

Israeli Union Group to Admit
Them as Full Members

Special to The New York Times

TEL. AVIV, Israel, Feb. 13—
Histadrut, the 454,000-member
Israeli trade union federation, is
to admit Israeli Arab workers
to full membership.

Pinkhas Lavan, secretary gen-
eral, asked 221 delegates in
the executive council here
to approve the step. He said
it would not alter the
character of Histadrut.

Federation officials said pri-
vately they did not expect the
70,000 eligible Arab workers to
follow a path to Histadrut's door.
By removing a grievance the fed-
eration is calculated to strengthen
Arab circles favoring inte-
gration.

In 1953 organized Arab work-
ers were affiliated with the
trade union departments of
Histadrut. Some 9,000 joined.

AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



Office of the
Executive Director

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GEORGE MEANT
WALTER P. BETHUNE
MAX ZIMSKY

Honorary Vice ~~Chairman~~

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Co-Chairman
DAVID BEHAL
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NORMAN FLEISHMAN
Co-Chairman
DAVID EDWARDS
Chairman, N.Y. Ex. Com. 7 years
I. H. GOLDMAN
Chairman, Adm. Comm.
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NATHANIEL M. MORGAN
Assistant Treasurer
FRANK ~~SMITH~~
Financial Secretary
HERBERT M. KLEGER
Assistant Financial Sec'y
NED GORDON
Executive Secretary

—

GEORGE J. KATZBERG
Executive Director
MARGARET DODSON
46 years 10 months
MARION RICH
Assistant Director

January 23, 1959

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave. N.W.
Washington 1. D. C.

Dear Hal,

Sorry I missed you when I was in Washington. I did have a nice talk with Larry Steinberg and said a quick hello to Jimmy.

Just received a letter from Judy, who tells us that she learned that you were at the University of Chicago after you had been there and gave me hell for not letting her know. She also tells me that Jimmy Hoffa has been invited to speak at the University and is looking forward to seeing him. Please let me know if Jimmy decides to accept the speaking invitation. If you are in Chicago you may want to call Judy and say hello. Her address is:

Judith Bardacke
1126 West House
5825 S. Woodlawn Ave.
Chicago 37, Ill.
Phone: Butterfield 8-6610

You should pay a little attention to your representative at the University of Chicago.

How about the pictures you promised to send me - the ones that you took on your last trip to Israel?

Hope that the Ed Murrow program will turn out to be a good public relations outlet for Jimmy, you and the Teamsters.

Best personal regards.

Cordially,

GJB:ms
orig: #153

Gregory J. Bardacke
Executive Director

Mr. Gibson

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

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WITH COMPLIMENTS

Please see P. 5

33 East 67th Street
New York 21, N. Y.
Tel. REgent 4-6810

GREGORY J. BARBACKE, Executive Director
American Trade Union Council
for Histadrut

ANNUAL REPORT

AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 29, 1958

COMMODORE HOTEL
NEW YORK CITY

Introduction

Ever since the first Zionists dreamt their dream of establishing a new Israel which would be based on social justice and the dignity of the individual, they found staunch support from the American and Canadian Trade Union Movements. Such supporters as Samuel Gompers, William Green and Philip Murray have now been joined by nearly every important trade union leader. George Meany, Walter Reuther, David Dubinsky, Jacob Potofsky, Al Mayer, Claude Jodoin, Donald McDonald, George Harrison, Joe Bierre, Pat Gorman, Ed Miller, Dave McDonald and a host of others are known and respected the length and breadth of Israel. Patiently and steadfastly our unions have supported the Middle East's only democracy. When men of little faith and distorted vision turned their back on the Land of the Bible, North American unionists remained true to themselves by remaining true to Israel.

This was done sometimes even in opposition to the policy of the United States State Department. If our government took the advice of the American unions, the situation in the Middle East would not have remained a threat to world peace. Our government has now seen the folly of appeasing the Middle East dictators at the expense of tried and true democratic friends. Once again the American unions have been proven right. Let us hope that it isn't too late.

We shall continue to support Israel through our sister trade union - the Histadrut. This pioneering, militant and imaginative organization has lived up to the highest expectations of its brothers in the North American unions.

Financial Support

The American Trade Union Council raised the sum of \$754,141.62 during the fiscal year of 1957-58. A detailed report of income and expenses is included. We would nevertheless like to make some comments about some specific fund raising activities.

International Ladies Garment Workers Union

President David Dubinsky of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union this year made a payment of \$155,362.50 toward the ILGWU Hospital in Beersheba. In addition, \$11,528.80 was received from friends of the ILGWU. This amount was also credited to the ILGWU Hospital. All in all, we have already received a total of \$666,887.30 on the million dollar pledge. We would like to give special mention this year to the ILGWU locals from Philadelphia, Boston and Los Angeles who fulfilled their quotas.

The Cloak Joint Board, under the leadership of Isadore Nagler; Local 35, under the leadership of Morris Kovler; and the General Office of the ILGWU have undertaken the task of raising \$75,000 toward the building of a Cultural Center in Mahora in the name of our beloved ex chairman, Joseph Presslaw. Brother Nagler laid the cornerstone of this center during his trip to Israel this past summer. Fifty thousand dollars has already been turned over to us for this project.

In addition to all other activities of Local 10 in behalf of Histadrut, Moe Flikman's fighting local gave us \$10,000 on a \$40,000 pledge for the building of a Parachutists' Rest Home in Maagan Israel. Local 10's members contributed another \$15,000 through the honor roll campaign.

The Northeast Department of the ILGWU, under the able leadership of David Ginzgold, continues its lively campaign in behalf of the Ginzgold Clinic in Kiryat Shmone.

Dress Presque Local 60 gave us \$5,000 for the Chama Sntzer Cultural Center; Local 98 contributed \$500 towards a future project; Local 105 contributed \$5,000 towards a future project.

We mention the above ILWU locals because they have given in addition to their contributions for the ILWU Beerhebe Hospital and for the wholehearted support they have given us in all of our activities, including our important public functions.

Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union

The Sidney Hillman Foundation repeated its \$2,500 gift of Ames Trade School scholarships.

The Joint Board of Shirt Makers, under the leadership of Charles J. Carreham; and Local 169, under the leadership of Tom Flavel, have participated in all aspects of our work.

Furriers

The Fur and Leather Department of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen raised \$52,000 at a dinner in Chicago in honor of its Director, Abe Feinglass.

The New York Furriers Joint Council sent 65 medical books to the Kaplan Hospital.

Millinery Workers

Local 26 and the Millinery Workers Joint Council hosted their annual pledge in honor of Brother I. H. Goldberger's 65th birthday.

Hotel and Restaurant Workers

Special mention must be made of Local 1, under the leadership of David Stern, and Local 60, under the leadership of Joseph Decker and Al Sroch, for their continuing campaign in behalf of the Ed S. Miller Youth Center in Tel Aviv.

Leather Goods, Plastics & Novelty Workers

Local 1, Pocketbook Workers, under the leadership of Philip Lubliner, has just completed its second \$25,000 project. They have already contributed \$3,000 toward a third project, a Sports Center in Hadera. In addition, 35 gross of wallets, valued at more than \$2,000, have been sent to the Israeli USO.

Local 60, Luggage Workers, under the leadership of Jack Weissberg, has worked hard on its project, a clinic in Bat Shimon. Both of these unions have always been in the forefront of all of our activities.

Typographical Union

Local 82, Hebrew-American Typographical Union, is now executing an appropriate project. Dr. Hyman Orushkin has helped in every way.

Local 6 has sent various electrocardiograph equipment to the Beilinson Hospital in Petak Tikva.

Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

Special mention should be made concerning District 65. This dynamic union's Vice-President Frank Brown is Financial Secretary of the American Trade Union Council. Together with 65's President, David Livingston, and the Director of Organization, William Michaelson, Frank Brown has brought the story of the district

to 65's large membership. Mass meetings, department gatherings, films, exhibitions and honor roll collections are but some of the methods used. In addition, Brother Brown (a former kibbutznik) has faithfully attended our meetings and has contributed greatly to the overall success of our work. It was not surprising that District 65 contributed the first \$4,000 towards a project adopted by the RWDSU (more about this project later).

Local 338, Wholesale Grocers, has continued its outstanding support of our cause under the able leadership of Julius Sum.

William Greer Foundation

We are delighted with the \$50,000 contributed by the William Green Memorial Foundation of the AFL-CIO to help build the William Green Cultural Center in Haifa. AFL-CIO Vice-Presidents George M. Harrison and Jacob S. Potofsky dedicated this Cultural Center this summer. It has now joined the Philip Murray Cultural Center in Elath as one of the most impressive living memorials in Israel - a real indication of the close understanding between Histadrut and the AFL-CIO.

International Association of Machinists

The IAM, through LIFT (Labor's Israel Fund for Training), ran two highly successful dinners to raise money for a tool plant and vocational training institute in Ein Hared. A dinner was run by Roy Brown, IAM Vice-President, in Los Angeles and another was held in Chicago by Roy Stemiller, IAM Vice-President. Over \$40,000 has been raised to date.

United Shoe Workers

Members of the United Shoe Workers, Locals 54, 65 and 129 and of Joint Council 13 have contributed to purchase an X-Ray Machine for Kupat Holim. Leo Sanders, Meyer Meisels and Fileno DeNovellis were responsible for this gift.

Other Activities

Other activities of the American Trade Union Council which raised money and were also of unusual political significance are:

Humanitarian Award Presentation to Walter P. Reuther. Over 1,000 guests attended. Arthur J. Goldberg was Chairman of this affair. Among the speakers were Ambassador Abba S. Eban and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler. Walter Reuther was the seventh recipient of this coveted award. Previous recipients were:

George Meany, President AFL-CIO
Governor Averell Harriman
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
U. S. Supreme Court Judge William O. Douglas
The late Vice-President Alben W. Barkley
President Harry Truman

Dinner in Honor of Dr. Isador Lubin, Industrial Commissioner of New York State. This dinner was tendered by the Civil Service Employees Committee for Histadrut under the present Chairman, New York City Labor Commissioner Harold Felix. Deputy Mayor Stanley H. Lowell chaired the dinner. Among the speakers were: Mayor Robert F. Wagner; Israeli Consul General Simcha Pratt; and the Honorable Thomas Finletter.

Dinner in Honor of Connecticut State AFL-CIO President Mitchell Sviridoff. Among the speakers were: New Haven's Mayor Richard Lee; Chester Bowles; and Victor Reuther.

Honor Roll Shop Collections

A detailed financial report on contributions received from unions throughout the United States and Canada is included. In the few months since the campaign began, more than 40,000 American workers have contributed \$49,664.75 through shop collections. This demonstration of understanding and solidarity to the cause of the workers of Israel will be extended during the coming year to many additional unions.

Business and Industry Division

The American Trade Union Council has continued its close cooperation with the Business and Industry Division of the National Committee for Labor Israel. As a result of our joint efforts \$21,500 was raised, primarily through labor-management dinners. We want to thank Gerhard Schroeder, Director of the Division, who not only cooperated with us in these activities, but whose advice helped to make our trade union work more productive.

Histadrut's American Representative

Histadrut's American representative, Yve, Ephraim (Bipie) Brown, has helped us at every stage of our work. His background in Israel (he was secretary to Prime Minister Ben Gurion, former Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and assistant to Pinhas Levan during the term as Defense Minister). His ability to interpret Israeli actions to American unionists, and his warm personality have evoked the support of all with whom he has met on his many visits to union meetings and conventions around the United States and Canada. He has solidified the support of the top AFL-CIO leadership and that of many important international unions. This has, of course, been of great assistance to the American Trade Union Council. His judgment has been sound and his advice is warmly welcomed.

Visits to Israel

During the past year many American trade union leaders have seen the remarkable progress which the Histadrut is making in helping build this new nation. George M. Harrison, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and Jacob S. Potofsky, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, were sent by the AFL-CIO as official delegates to open the William Green Cultural Center in Haifa. Theodore Napier, Manager of the Clock Joint Board III; Aba Fainglase, Director of the Fur & Leather Dept. of the Hascutars; Mitchell Sviridoff, President of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO Labor Council; I. H. Goldberg, Vice-President of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union; and Arthur Osmun, Executive Vice-President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union all traveled to Israel to view projects which their unions have helped to sponsor. In addition, William McFetridge, President of the Building Service International Union; Ralph Helstein, President of the United Packinghouse Workers; Sam Kreisman of the ILGWU in Toronto; and Kaimen Kaplinsky, Director of the Department of International Affairs of the Canadian Labour Congress made study tours of Israel. Armand D'Angelo, Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, and Phil Kaser, Aide to Governor Hartman, also made trips to Israel where they viewed the Robert F. Wagner Medical Clinic in Tzfat HaCarmer.

These trade union representatives have, of course, been invaluable upon their return in telling their membership and their many friends of the constructive social welfare achievements of the Histadrut. This has laid a firm base for our future work.

Regional Offices

Many of our regional offices have developed their trade union programs very highly. Campaigns among trade unions outside of New York are now an integral part of our work, as our financial statement will testify. Many campaigns have been started at a national level by securing the approval of an international union. Then our regional offices have been asked to cooperate and help. This year the Abe Feinglass dinner in Chicago was such a function. The campaign of the Furriers in Toronto during the coming year will be similar and there are many others. Cooperation of the regional directors with the national office and with one another has been most gratifying and we hope to extend this program.

Our thanks go to the following trade union leaders in the various localities:

In St. Louis Joe Applebaum, District Director of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; John Rollings, Missouri Labor Council; Harold Gibbons, Executive Vice-President of the Teamsters; Larry Connors of the Machinists; Nick Blasse of the Meat Cutters and Fred Siens of the ILG were active in every aspect of our work.

Jennie Matyas and Ralph King of the ILGWU were aided by Tony Bellerini of the Machinists; Sam Krips of the Amalgamated; John Silber of the Upholsterers; and Attorney Jay Darwin in their efforts to extend our activities in San Francisco trade unions.

Our old standbys in Philadelphia - Harry Dordick, William Ross and Max Segal of the ILG; Ben Cohen, Millinery Workers; Louis Sobel, Carpenters; Charles Weinstein, ACWA; Ed Rovner and Ed Davis of the Hotel & Restaurant Workers; Norman Blumberg, Central Trade and Labor Council and Harry Block of the IUK continue their very active roles.

Leaders of the Montreal trade union efforts are Bernard Shane, Maurice Manel and Sam Lieberman of the ILG; Albert Katon of the ILGWU; Maurice Sitcoff of the Millinery Workers; Myron Rieff, Maurice Rabinowitz, Joseph Shuster and David Cohen of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; I. Lev, M. Puttershnit of the Furriers and Abe Ferdernick of the Bakers are very active.

The Toronto Campaign was led by Sol Spivak, Dave Stein and G. Calmus of the ACWA; Sam Kreissan, A. Magerman, H. Clairmont and Joe Hacks of the ILG; Max Federman, Harry Simon and Al Herszkowitz of the Furriers; Henry Grossman of the Bakers; and M. Brotman of the Millinery Workers.

In Cleveland Nicholas Kirtzian, Meyer Berkman, Bernatino Gardiner, William Kaufman and Edward Ziter of the ILGWU were aided by Mat DeMore of the Machinists.

Our expanding Los Angeles campaign was led by Jerome Posner of the Amalgamated and Max Otto of the ILG. The Machinists, under the able leadership of Roy Brown, played a very significant role. Blackie Lunceford of the AFL, John Despol of the CIO and David Weissman of the American Bakery and Confectionery Workers contributed greatly.

In Minnesota Neil Sherburne and Robert Olsen of the Minnesota AFL-CIO and Sander Genia of the ACWA provided good support.

Mitchell Swiridoff, Joseph Rourke and John Driscoll of the Connecticut State Labor Council led our Connecticut Campaign.

Our newest trade union campaign, Miami, is led by William J. Owens of the Central Labor Union; Max Waxler of the ILGWU; Vincent O'Reilly of the Marine Engineers; Ruth Salliant, Morris Dronkin and David Herman of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees; Violet Cole of the Office Workers; Charles Towle of the Typographical Union; David Frechette and Ernest Bellis of the Teamsters; George Pfaffendorf of the Hebrew

Butcherers, Frank Roche of the Florida Federation of Labor; Rudy Votach of the Dade County Club; W. O. Frazier of the Motor Coach Employees and Joseph Henry of the Miami Building and Construction Trades Council.

Most effective assistance was given our Cincinnati office by Ed S. Miller, President, and Jack Weinberger, Secretary-Treasurer, of the Hotel, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union; Jack Kroll of the ACMA and David Solomon of the ILCMU.

Angela Bamaca and Joe Wolman of the ILCMU; Harry Cohen, Treasurer; Ed Johns of the Baltimore Federation of Labor and Charles Halla of the Maryland Labor Council have all been active in our work in Baltimore.

William Belanger, Vice-President of the Textile Workers and of the Massachusetts State Labor Council, has been quite active along with our old standby Phil Kramer, Al Froid, Hyman Newman, Sam Goldberg, Max Kramer, Louis Plotkin of the ILO and Joe Salerno, Paul Lowack of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

Our Chicago campaign was led by Morris Blais of the ILCMU, Sam Levin and Sam Smith of the ACMA, Pat Gorman of the Meatcutters, Abe Feinglass and Robert Karkin of the Fur Division of the Meatcutters. Sam Winn of the Capakere and Milton Holtzman of the Carpenters continue to play a leading role.

In Detroit and in the Michigan area, our supporters included: Irving Bronson, Painter; Dave Chaney, ACMA; Morris Coleman, Teamsters; Barney Hopkins, Michigan AFL-CIO; Isaac Litzak, Teamsters; Andrew S. McFarlane, Detroit & Wayne County AFL; Tom McHamra, Building Trades Council; Walter F. Bowther, President, United Auto Workers; Frank Winn, Public Relations Director, United Auto Workers; and Mrs. Holmgren, Vice-President, Hotel & Restaurant Workers.

Each of these trade union leaders has helped us to provide Hiredret with the material support which is needed so urgently to help build Israel. At the same time, they have done everything they could to make the American trade union movement and the American public more aware of the special problems which Israel faces as a lonely and militant outpost in the Middle East.

In Memoriam

This year we were saddened by the loss of some dear friends, some of our most respected and devoted leaders. We mourn Abe Haiman, Director of our Boston office; Sam Macy of the ILO in Miami; Mabel Fisher and Alec Cohen of the Shirt Workers; Murray Weinstein of Local 4 of the ACMA; Julius Cohen of the Glassore & Dyer; Aaron Benkin and Charles Kessler of Local 23, ILCMU. Mitzel and Israel will suffer because of their passing. We who remain must do all that we can to take up the burden which they were forced to lay down.

Future Prospects

Next year's campaign is already well under way. Plans have been made for a number of activities during the course of the year which should help to meet some of Israel's most pressing problems. On November 18th the Testimonial Dinner for Sam Herbat, Canadian organizer for the ILCMU, was held in Winnipeg. This dinner was part of a two-year campaign to raise \$100,000 for a Cultural Youth Center in Khovot. Also in Canada in May, Max Federman of the Toronto Furriers will be the focal point of a drive to raise \$100,000 for a vocational training school in Liberia.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union has begun a three-pronged drive to help erect a Cultural and Sports Center in Ramat Gan. Money will be raised through the honor roll campaign, through a journal and through a testimonial dinner for International President Max Greenberg.

Youth clubs designed to train youngsters in various technical skills in their free time will be built by the International Leather Goods, Plastics and Novelty Workers Union and by the New York Civil Service Employees' Committee for Histadrut. Norman Zukowsky, Co-Chairman of the American Trade Union Council, is President of the Leather Goods Union, and Judge Louis I. Kaplan, Commissioner of Investigation, is Chairman of the Civil Service Employees Committee.

The Chicago trade unions are sparking a drive for a Youth Center in Nazareth. To accomplish this, a testimonial dinner for Morris Bialia, Dean of Chicago trade unionists, is planned for May.

Work will continue this year on the Channa Spitzer Cultural Project, the Pocketbook Workers Cultural Center in Hadera; the Luggage Workers' Clinic in Bet Shemesh; and the Sports Center in Petak Tikva, to be built by the Miami trade unions. In addition, plans are being formulated for a project for the Pittsburgh unions.

A dinner will be held in Detroit on December 10th in honor of Michigan's retiring AFL President Andrew S. McFarlane. Money collected at this dinner will be contributed to our campaign.

The following list of American political and trade union leaders who participated in our work in the past year is a measure of the wide support which we have been able to evoke:

President Joseph Beirne	Governor Goodwin Knight
Governor Edmund G. Brown	Mayor Richard Lee
President James B. Carey	President Thomas J. Lloyd
Senator Paul H. Douglas	Senator Patrick McNamara
President David Dubinsky	President George Meany
Ambassador Abba Eban	Senator Wayne Morse
Arthur J. Goldberg	Judge Stanley Mosk
President Max Greenberg	President Jacob S. Potofsky
Governor Averell Harriman	President Walter P. Reuther
President George M. Harrison	President Emeritus Emil Rieve
President Al S. Hayes	Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey	Mayor Robert F. Wagner

Conventions

Histadrut was well represented at the Second Annual AFL-CIO Convention in Atlantic City. Reuven Barkatt, Director of Histadrut's International Affairs Department, attended all the sessions of this historic meeting. He held personal conferences with top AFL-CIO leaders.

A special luncheon was given Brother Barkatt by President David Dubinsky and President Jacob S. Potofsky. George Meany and Walter Reuther addressed the luncheon and Arthur Goldberg was the toastmaster.

Other Histadrut representatives at the AFL-CIO Convention were Ephraim Evron, Zeev Haring, Joseph Schloseberg and Gregory J. Bardacke. Nathan Bar-Yaacov, Labor Attache of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, was also present. Of course, leaders of the American Trade Union Council were present as delegates from their own unions.

A very pleasant reunion was held between Brother Barkatt and the AFL-CIO delegates who had visited Israel over the past few years. Joseph Glazer helped liven up the reunion with his guitar and songs.

Other conventions at which Hladrut and American Trade Union Council officials participated were:

- American Clothing Workers of America
- Virginia State AFL-CIO
- Transport Service Employees Union
- American Federation of Musicians
- Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union
- Maine State AFL-CIO
- National Association for Advancement of Colored People
- National Labor Council
- United Steelworkers of America
- Minnesota State Labor Council
- International Union of Electrical Workers
- Electrical, Machine and Plasterers International Union of America

Gregory J. Bardacke was guest of the Canadian Labour Congress in Winnipeg at the CIO's Second Annual Convention. Over 130 delegates attended a Hladrut luncheon which was addressed by the AFL-CIO Fraternal Delegate Joseph Bairne, President Claude Jodoin, Michael Starr (Federal Minister of Labor) and Gregory J. Bardacke. IIG Vice-President Bernard Shane was Chairman of this luncheon. Many of the top Canadian Trade Union Council leaders attended as delegates to the Convention from their own unions.

Bardacke and Gregory J. Bardacke were joined by Nathan Bar-Taacov, Bernard Jacobson, Noah Lucatz, Harold Burke, Mordecai Barja and Marvin Rich in covering the above conventions as well as many local and district union meetings.

Summer Schools and Institutes

We were indeed fortunate to have the services of Noah Lucatz this year. Brother Lucatz, a member of the Hladrut International Affairs Staff, is in the United States completing his university credits. Noah Lucatz, Marvin Rich and Bernard Jacobson were our main educators this summer. The following were some of the institutes attended:

Date	Organization	Place Held	Attended By
July 15, 1958	International Chemical Workers	Rutgers Univ.	Rich
July 20, 1958	Communications Wkrs. of Amer.	Univ. of Misc.	Lucatz
August 10, 1958	Kanuck Federation of Labor	Morehead, Ky.	Lucatz
August 17, 1958	Ohio AFL-CIO	Ohio Univ.	Lucatz
August 20, 1958	United Auto Wkrs. Region 1A	PMA Labor Center	Lucatz
Sept. 20, 1958	Communications Wkrs. of Amer.	Univ. of Minn.	Jacobson
Sept. 20, 1958	State County & Municipal Emp.	Hartford	Rich
Sept. 20, 1958	Wiscasin	Hudson	Jacobson

Hladrut's Visits to the U.S. and Canada

It is almost impossible to think of Ephraim Byron as a visitor. He has become so much a part of our work that it seems that he has always been with us. He is planning to leave after his two-year term is completed, this coming June. We hope that there will be a change in plan and that Ephie will stay on with us for a longer period of time.

Other Hladrut leaders who have assisted us were: Rayman Barakat, Joseph Barata, M. Zlamon, Yehuda Twlin, Mayor Pinhas Raehish, Louis Pincus, Mosha Soroka and, of

course, Zvi Goldwasser, Kupat Holim's American Representative. We have also been helped by Foreign Minister Golda Meir, Ambassador Abba Eban, Minister Plenipotentiary Yacov Herzog, Consul General Simcha Pratt as well as the present Israeli United Nations delegates - especially Israel Galili and David Macohen.

All Israeli Consulates throughout the United States and Canada have been exceedingly helpful and cooperative. The close cooperation between the above persons and the American Trade Union Council has not only been of tremendous assistance to us, but has also indicated the importance attached to our work by Israel.

In Israel

A few words of thanks to our Isaac Hamlin for the way he looked out for our interests in Israel. For over thirty-five years he has given us leadership. He continues to be an indispensable part of our whole operation.

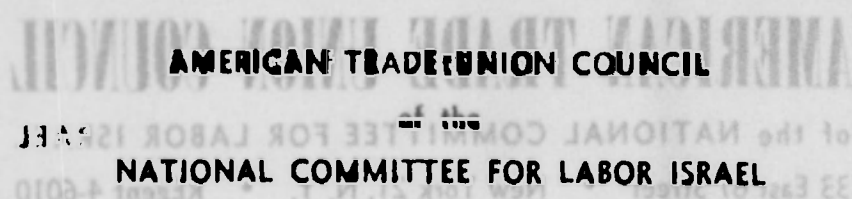
We must recognize the splendid leadership and cooperation we have received from Mitzdrot's General Secretary Pinhas Lavon, Reuven Barkatt and Ezra Hayut.

In Conclusion

The National Committee for Labor Israel is celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary. During this time the American Trade Union Council has carried out many important functions in a most effective manner. Leaders of the American Trade Union Council have rightfully taken a great deal of pride in their work and accomplishments. Our campaign for Labor Israel is not considered separate year-by-year campaigns but a continuing activity. One cannot say: "Freedom has been won so we can all go to sleep for our job is done." The forces of evil are always at work. Freedom must always be guarded. We pledge to carry on not only for this coming year but until all humanity is at peace - until hunger, disease, illiteracy and dictators are driven from this world. For until such a time, forces of freedom must always be on guard - must always help each other.

The staff of the American Trade Union Council would like to give recognition to the officers of the National Committee for Labor Israel for their support and guidance. National Chairman Joseph Schlossberg, National Secretary Dov Biegun, National Campaign Chairman Jacob Weinstein, and Assistant National Secretary Israel Stolarsky have encouraged and advised us. They have helped us over many a rough spot. Our intimate contact with Dov Biegun and Israel Stolarsky has made our work more effective. A special word of thanks to the Office Committee of the National Committee for Labor Israel for showing so much understanding and appreciation of our problems.

Our Chairman, Abe Falikman, believes in leading by example. We have to be on our toes constantly to keep up with him. Both Brother Falikman and his staff are grateful to his fellow officers: I. M. Goldberg, Chairman of our Administrative Committee; David Gingold, Chairman of our Executive Committee; Philip Lubliner, our Treasurer; our Financial Secretary Frank Brown; our Co-Chairmen Joseph Gold, David Siegal and Norman Zukowsky; our Associate Treasurer, Nathaniel M. Minkoff; our Associate Financial Secretary Murrey M. Kolker; and our Recording Secretary Max Goodman. We would also like to express our thanks to the many trade union leaders throughout the United States and Canada who have worked with us and advised us on many important matters. We especially would like to mention President Claude Jodoin, Donald MacDonald, Arthur J. Goldberg, Charles S. Zimmerman and Elman Kaplan.



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JOSEPH SCHLOSSER
ChairmanDon Rogers
Secretary

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



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Abstract

October 21, 1958

Dear Friend and Brother:

Your union is cordially invited to send five delegates to the Annual Conference of the American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel. The Conference will convene at 9:30 A.M. Saturday, November 29, 1958, in the East Ballroom of the Commodore Hotel. We shall plan our activities for the coming year and hear reports from prominent American labor leaders and Israelis on developments in Israel.

Please select your delegates as soon as possible and send us their names and addresses on the enclosed card. These delegates will also represent your union at the National Convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel from Thursday evening, November 27th, through Sunday, November 30th. An invitation to this convention is enclosed.

We also urge you to make your reservations for the convention luncheon on Saturday and for the breakfast on Sunday. The Sunday breakfast will honor the Vatikim - the founders of the Histadrut movement in this country. The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00 and of the breakfast is \$2.50.

We hope that this conference will formulate a sound and effective program for the coming year. We are sure that your union will play an active and important role.

Fraternally yours,

Gregory J. Bardacke

Gregory J. Bardacke
Executive Director

GJB:ms
oeiu: #153
Encl.



TO ALL JEWISH AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend the

35th Annual Convention
of the
Israel Histadrut Campaign

which will be held

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, to SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1958
at the Commodore Hotel, 42nd St., at Lexington Ave., New York City

Thousands of friends of Labor Israel will come from all parts of the continent to participate in this great gathering marking the 35th year of solidarity and fraternal aid to the heroic pioneers of Israel. Through the Histadrut Campaign, we have mobilized the sympathy and material support of millions of Americans. The Histadrut Campaign has played a key role in the development of a healthy, dignified people living in the free democracy of reborn Israel.

The 35th annual Convention will be a summation of the tremendous achievements of the past three and a half decades; it will be a preview of the challenges still facing us as partners of Histadrut. For on the solid foundations built by the Halutzim of yesterday, the entire structure of a fully redeemed Israel must rise. Countless Jews must still be absorbed; new facilities must be created to serve their needs — medical, vocational, cultural, social, and economic.

We call upon you to participate in this historic conclave, to demonstrate your unflagging support to Histadrut in this crucial era.

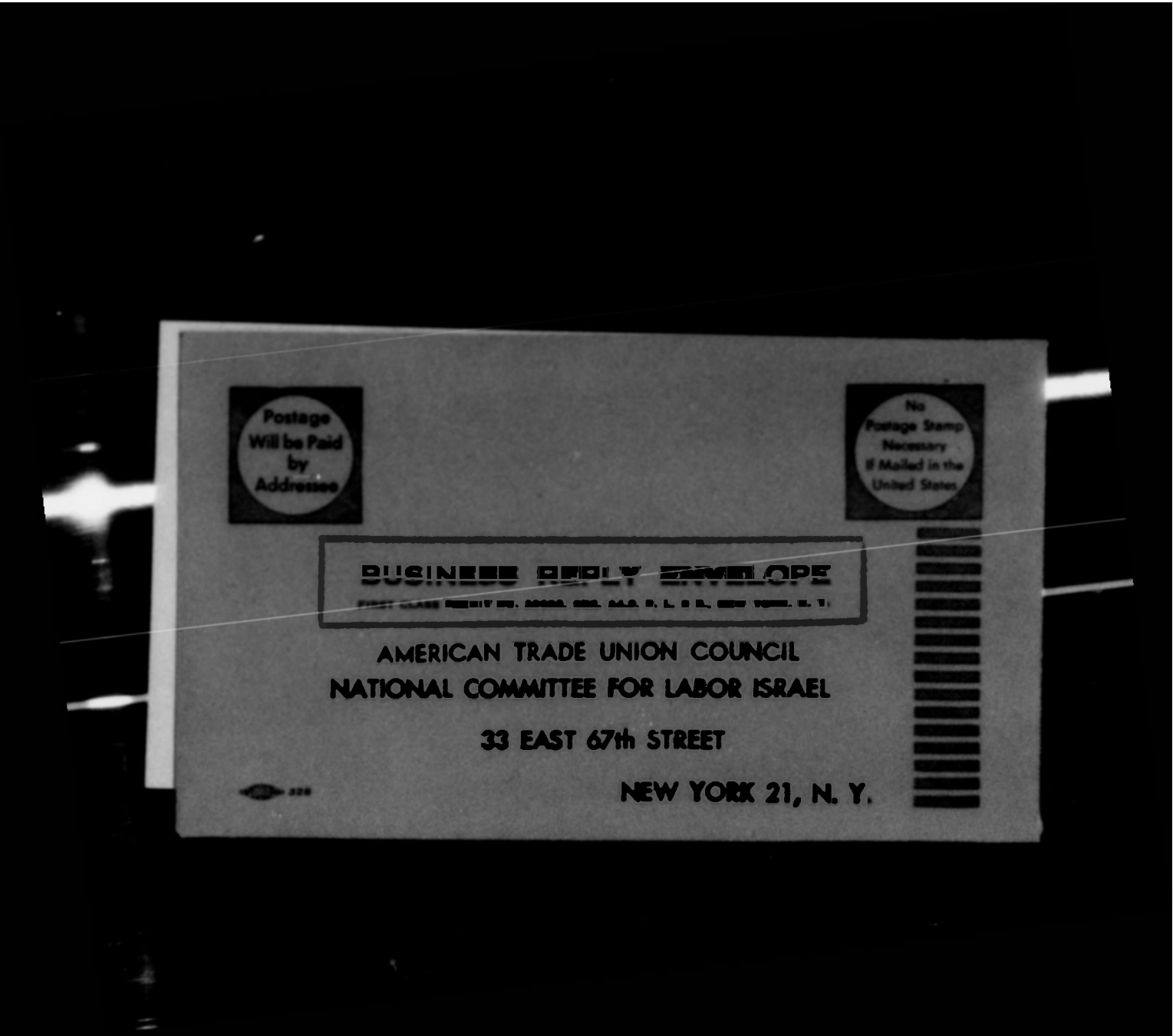
Please select your five (5) delegates at once and send us their names and addresses on the enclosed card.

Anticipating your prompt reply and wholehearted cooperation, we remain,

With Histadrut greetings,

JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG
National Chairman

DR. DOV BIEGUN
National Secretary



THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

35th National Convention Labor Israel
National Committee for Labor Israel
33 West 67th Street New York 21, N.Y.

Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ covers for the Luncheon on
Gentlemen: occasion of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Convention
on Saturday, November 29, 1958, 12:30 P.M. at the
Please reserve _____ places for me at the Testimonial
Breakfast in honor of the Veterans of the Histadrut
Campaign on Sunday, November 30, 1958 at the Commodore
Hotel. (Subscription \$5.00)

Enclosed please find check for \$ _____ (\$2.50 per cover).

Name _____

(Make Address payable to National Committee for
Labor Israel)

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Please make checks payable to: ISRAEL HISTADRUT CAMPAIGN

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

(For additional names please use other side)

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

X

August 11, 1958

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Gregory Berdeche
c/o Histadrut
95 Arlossoff St.
Tel Aviv, Israel

Dear Greg:

The attached is an interesting advertisement which
I am sure some one in Histadrut might want
to see.

Sincerely yours,

H. J. Gibbons

HJG/yk
Enc.

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010

Office of the
Executive Director

March 6, 1958

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

41542214

Mr. James R. Hoffa, President
Int'l. Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jude:

Enclosed is an interesting and shocking document. The Arab boycott of American firms directly affects the jobs of American workers. Discrimination against shipping affects the livelihood and safety of American seamen.

I am sure that you will be most anxious to read this pamphlet.

Best personal regards.

Cordially,

Gregory J. Bardacke
Executive Director

GJB;fg
0014:153

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Award to **GEORGE MEANY**
by
HISTADRUT HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE

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MON. AVERELL HARRIMAN - 1955

February 7, 1957

Mr. Dave Baek, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington 1, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Stulberg

Dear President Baek:

As you know, George Meany, President of the American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations, will receive the Histadrut Humanitarian Award on Wednesday, February 27, 1957 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City.

This Award is given to President Meany in grateful appreciation of his outstanding efforts in fostering sympathetic understanding between the people of the United States and the people of the State of Israel.

The response to this dinner has been most heartening. I am sure that when you became a Vice Chairman that it was your intention to have your organization represented even though you may not personally be able to attend. However, I have not yet received your reservation card and therefore I am enclosing another one for your convenience.

Praternally yours,

Louis Stulberg
Louis Stulberg
Associate Treasurer

encl.
osiu-153

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33 East 67th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

Presentation

OF THE
HISTADRUT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

TO

George Meany

President

American Federation of Labor — Congress of Industrial Organizations

at a

DINNER

Wednesday Evening, February 27, 1957

6:30 P.M.

GRAND BALLROOM
WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL
PARK AVENUE AT 50TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Sponsored by
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Informal

R.S.V.P.

THE HISTADRUT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

THIS AWARD has been presented since 1950 to leaders in American public life who, in the estimate of the Award Committee, have made "outstanding efforts in fostering sympathetic understanding between the people of the United States and the State of Israel, and who have demonstrated warm encouragement of the cause of Histadrut."

RECIPIENTS OF HUMANITARIAN AWARD:

- 1950 ALBEN W. BARKLEY, *Vice President of the United States*
- 1951 HARRY S. TRUMAN, *President of the United States*
- 1952 WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, *Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court*
- 1953 MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
- 1955 AVERELL HARRIMAN, *Governor, State of New York*

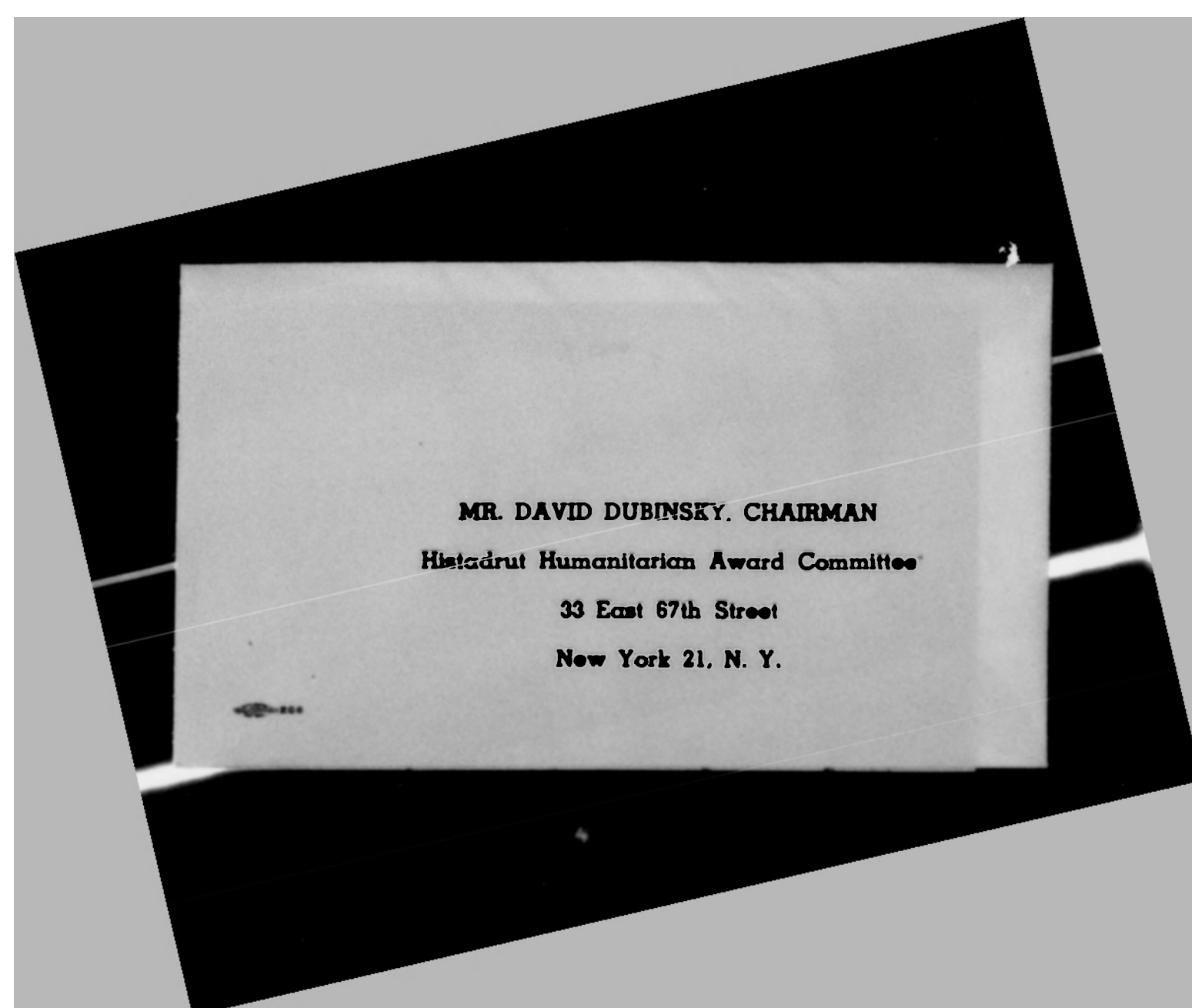
GEORGE MEANY

In selecting President George Meany of the AFL-CIO as recipient of the 1956 Histadrut Humanitarian Award, the National Committee for Labor Israel expresses its long felt appreciation of the great services that Mr. Meany has rendered to the American people and its organized labor movement, to the cause of free labor throughout the world, and to the State of Israel, which has received his constant support and encouragement during the difficult years of its existence. Above all, Mr. Meany has been a close and understanding friend of Histadrut, the free trade union movement which plays such a vital role in the building of a true democratic society in Israel which shall serve as a living example to the entire Middle East and to the nations of the earth.

Mr. Meany has won for himself the highest regard of all segments of the American public. Not only in the ranks of the 15,000,000 AFL-CIO members whom he leads, but in government and in industrial circles he has gained a reputation for honesty of belief, sincerity of conviction and fearlessness in championing the cause of justice and human freedom.

It is with extreme pleasure that the National Committee for Labor Israel has chosen to present this year's Award to George Meany.

Proceeds of the Testimonial Dinner will go toward furthering the social welfare, vocational training, health and rehabilitation program conducted by Histadrut on behalf of the working population and new immigrants in Israel.



Award to **GEORGE MEANY**
by
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MON. WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS - 1932
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT - 1933
MON. AVERELL HARRIMAN - 1935

January 18, 1957

Dear Friend;

We have not as yet received from you your reservation card for the George Meany Humanitarian Award Dinner. We feel sure that this is just an oversight on your part. Certainly you will wish to honor the distinguished President of the American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations.

We would appreciate receiving your order for tickets as soon as possible so that we can include the name of your organization and your guests on the program which will be presented to President Meany. The printer must have adequate time and you are therefore urged to give this matter your immediate attention.

For your convenience a reservation card and return envelope is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Stulberg *Harry Uviller*
Louis Stulberg Harry Uviller
Co-Treasurers
Histadrut Humanitarian Award Committee

Enclosure
CEIU: 153

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MR. DAVID DUBINSKY, CHAIRMAN
Histadrut Humanitarian Award Committee
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

From the Office of JOHN F. ENGLISH

Date January 25, 1957

To Office of the General President

Subject Histadrut

Attached you will find a letter from Mr. Gregory J. Bardacke, Executive Director, American Trade Union Council of the National Committee For Labor Israel (Histadrut). Mr. Bardacke is requesting that an invitation be given a representative of their organization to address the forthcoming convention of this organization.

JFE
JOHN F. ENGLISH

JFE:s

enc.

AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL

33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



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January 18, 1957

Mr. John F. English
Secretary-Treasurer
Int'l. Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs,
Warehousemen and Helpers of America
25 Louisiana Avenue N.E.
Washington 1, D.C.

Dear Brother English:

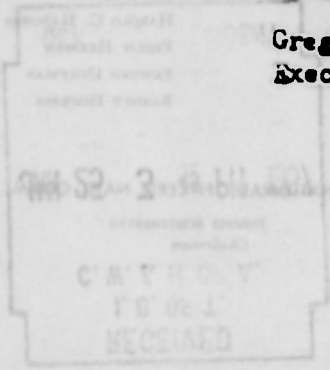
The situation in the Middle East is becoming more critical by the moment. Histadrut (General Federation of Labor of Israel) maintains full time personnel in the United States. This is the only union in the world that has a representative in the United States permanently doing liaison work with the American trade unions.

We believe that a short message to your Convention by our Histadrut representative may be of interest to your delegates. Therefore, we respectfully request an invitation to have one of our representatives address your coming convention.

Fraternal yours,

Gregory J. Bardack
Gregory J. Bardack
Executive Director

GJB:eps



General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Haavdim)
EXECUTIVE BOARD

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
Tel.: REgent 4-6010

ההסתדרות הכללית של העובדים העבריים בארץ ישראל

הוועד הפועל

נציגות באמריקה

January 9, 1957

Mr. Dave Beck, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

Dear Brother Beck:

With the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula reaching its completion, and with the promulgation of President Eisenhower's new Middle East policy, the world is faced with one of the Middle East's thorniest if least-known problems, the question of the international waterway of the Gulf of Aqaba. This waterway has long been sealed off by Egyptian guns. In piratical violation of international law and of the promises of the Egyptian Government, Egyptian shore batteries have in the past blasted ships of many nations in this waterway, including the United States S.S. Albion, which was bombarded while carrying a gift cargo of wheat for Jordan in 1952.

Years before Nasser's appropriation of the Suez Canal, Egypt perceived that the Gulf of Aqaba could serve no less effectively than Suez as a weapon of international blackmail, and Nasser established it as his own artillery range without even the formal benefit of announcing its "nationalization" as was the case with Suez. One of the chief achievements of Israel's Sinai campaign was to free this waterway from outlaw Egyptian control and restore it to the world as an international waterway open to all navigation, regardless of local or global political considerations. Whether navigation in this vital waterway, now available to the world as an alternative to the Suez Canal, is to continue free and untrammelled is the question which faces the western world. In view of the importance of this waterway to the whole world, and its immense strategic and economic implications and potentialities, I am submitting for your information this special background report on the Gulf of Aqaba.

As will be seen from the accompanying map, the Gulf of Aqaba parallels the Gulf of Suez, both gulfs forming arms of the Red Sea and both equally providing easy access from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. In the case of the Gulf of Suez, the land barrier between the two salt-water seas has been cut by a canal. In the case of the Gulf of Aqaba, the land barrier has not yet been cut, although various projects for such a venture have been under consideration for many years.

The Gulf of Aqaba is 100 miles long and varies in width from 12 to 17 miles, with a total coastline of 230 miles shared by four countries - Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. At the northern end of the Gulf are two ports: Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel. Near its southern end, where the Gulf merges into the Red Sea proper, are two islands: Sanafir and Tiran. The only navigable channel leading from the Red Sea into the Gulf passes between the island of Tiran and the coast of Sinai and is three nautical miles wide which explains the ease with which the Egyptians were able to block the entrance to the Gulf.

Egyptian Guns Enforced Blockade - A point on the Sinai Coast directly facing the island of Tiran is known as Ras Nasrani. It is not marked on many maps, for it did not exist until a few years ago when Egypt set up six gun emplacements for the sole purpose of preventing ships bound for Eilat from entering the Gulf. These guns

were trained on the three-mile straits, the sole path through which ships could move. But the actual lane usable by vessels is even narrower, for coral reefs and rock fill east of the passage. The only channel free for shipping is 500 yards wide, about 1,000 yards from and running parallel to the shore. Guns at Ras Nasrani could thus blast any vessel using the channel right out of the water. These were the guns that have blocked shipping to the Israeli port of Eilat for the last five years. They were silenced on November 3, 1956 when the Israel Army captured Ras Nasrani. For the first time, ships of all nations are now free to move north and south through the Gulf, to and from Eilat. For the first time an alternative to Suez is open.

For centuries the entire Gulf of Aqaba formed part of the Ottoman Empire. At the end of the 19th century the southwestern shore - the eastern border of the Sinai Peninsula - was ceded to Egypt, and after World War One the southeastern shore was given to Saudi-Arabia. The northern shore formed part of Palestine. Following the termination of the British Mandate over Palestine in 1948 and the emergence of the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan, this area became part of Israel and Jordan respectively.

Egypt Promises Free Passage - Towards the end of 1949 Egypt erected military installations on the uninhabited islands of Sanafir and Tiran and on the Sinai Coast opposite the islands. In reply to an inquiry on the subject addressed to it by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, the Egyptian Government stated on January 28, 1950 that it had no intention of interfering in any way with peaceful shipping and that passage through the Straits of Tiran would, as in the past, remain free "in conformity with international practice and with recognized principles of international law."

In spite of this express assurance, the Government of Egypt blocked the passage of ships through the Straits of Tiran with the Ras Nasrani shore batteries. This was part of the illegal blockade proclaimed in May, 1948 against Israel. This blockade was continued even after armistice agreements had been signed between Israel and the Arab states following the unsuccessful Arab invasion of Israel in 1948, although these agreements expressly prohibited all warlike actions between the parties. In addition, Egypt promulgated decrees and regulations relating specifically to the Gulf of Aqaba, and indeed enacted most of them after the Security Council denounced the Egyptian blockade. By a decree issued in November, 1953, even foodstuffs were included in the list of contraband goods barred from passing through the Straits of Tiran to Eilat. In an explanatory memorandum accompanying this decree, its underlying purpose was frankly stated: "Israel was showing increasing economic activity and was establishing a merchant fleet to handle all its imports from South and East Africa."

American and British Ships Fired On - Ships desiring to pass through the Straits were required to give 72 hours advance notice to the Egyptian authorities, with full particulars of their cargoes, passengers, destination, etc. These regulations were enforced with ever-increasing severity. A number of grave incidents occurred in the Gulf.

July 1, 1951: The British S.S. Empire Roach, carrying a cargo of arms for Jordan, was fired on by the Tiran batteries and denied entrance to the Gulf.

December 3, 1952: The U.S. S.S. Albion, carrying a cargo of gift wheat to Aqaba for the relief of famine in Jordan, was fired on by Egyptian shore batteries. In apologizing for the incident, Egypt "explained" that it had thought the ship's destination was Eilat.

January 1, 1954: Egyptian gunfire was directed against the Italian ship Maria Antonia en route from Massawa to Eilat, and the ship was forced back and compelled to return to its port of origin.

April 10, 1955: The British S.S. Argobec was stopped by shots fired across her bows.

July 3, 1955: The British S.S. Ansun, reportedly engaged in carrying Moslem pilgrims to Mecca, was struck by gunfire.

- 3 -

In the light of these facts it is clear that Egypt's action in closing the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba to international shipping represented a violation of international law and of the express assurances given by the Egyptian Government in January, 1950. The Gulf of Aqaba is an international waterway, and under international law no coastal state, even when claiming territorial water rights, is entitled to close it to international shipping. The effect of the Egyptian Government's illegal action has been not merely to prevent Israeli ships from entering the Straits of Tiran. The blockade has also deterred ships of many other nations from proceeding to Eilat. The matter is thus not only the concern of Israel. If freed from the illegal Egyptian blockade, Eilat could become a pivotal point of international trade. Apart from Egypt, Israel is the only country with coastlines both on the Mediterranean and on the Red Sea. Before the Second World War, with the possible danger of the Suez Canal being closed by Nazi action, plans were mooted for building an alternative canal from Eilat to Haifa. The problem has now become one of immediate urgency and of world-wide importance.

Quite apart from the danger which threatens free navigation through the Suez Canal from political interference by Egypt (as when it sank almost 50 ships in the Channel to block the Canal), it has long been evident that the Suez Canal was reaching its saturation point. Its main importance at present is that it serves to carry oil from the Mideast to Europe. This traffic is increasing by leaps and bounds. Within the very near future the Canal will no longer be adequate. Various projects have been considered for meeting this emergency, including a plan to build a pipeline for pumping oil across Israel from Eilat to the Mediterranean coast. A project has been discussed for constructing an additional shipping canal to connect Eilat with Haifa. This would be infinitely cheaper than sending ships all the way round the Cape, if the Suez Canal were no longer able to handle additional traffic or were again closed by the Egyptians. Moreover, the mere existence of such an alternative route and oil pipeline would break the Egyptian monopoly and free the world once and for all of the danger of vital supplies being held up by Egyptian political interference.

In any case Nasser must not again be permitted to act as he pleases in the Gulf of Aqaba, which must be kept open to all ships of all nations. The status quo ante cannot be restored. So distinguished an observer as the "New York Times" military editor, Mr. Hanson Baldwin, has suggested that American foreign policy must seek the "internationalization of the Strait of Tiran leading to the Gulf of Aqaba and the southern tip of Israel." Whether through this method or by some other alternative solution, the gain won for the free world by Israel in liberating the Straits of Tiran must not be carelessly squandered. For the first time in many years, the Gulf of Aqaba is free to ships and cargoes of all nations, like any other international waterway.

It is unthinkable that the old anarchy should now be restored or that the United Nations should pave the way for the renewal of Egypt's arbitrary interference with the freedom of international trade and navigation. The U.N. cannot sanction outright piracy. Never again must Egyptian shore batteries be allowed to cannonade American or any other vessels bent on legitimate business. Piracy and outlawing cannot be rewarded by their perpetuation.

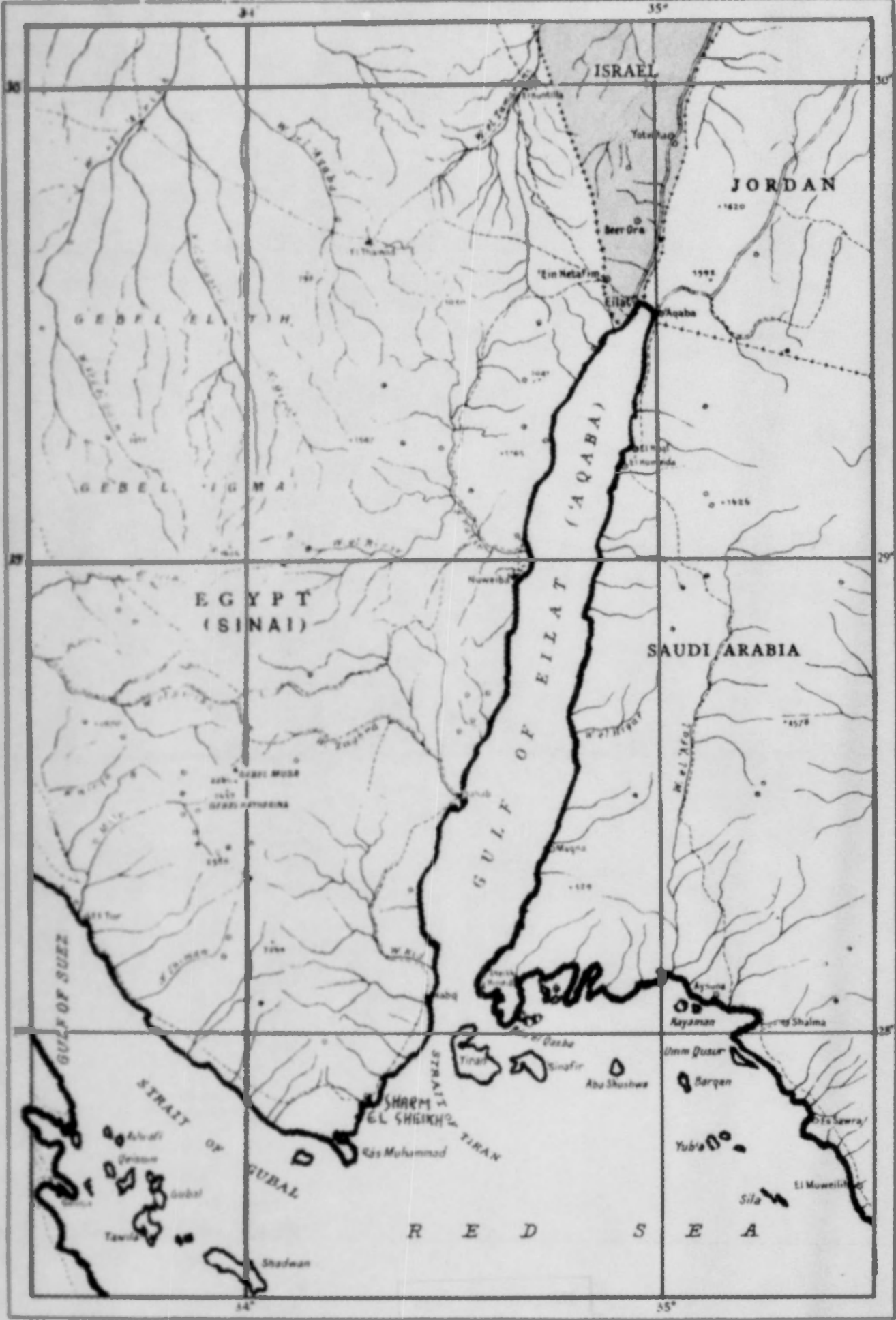
I hope you will find this information valuable.

Fraternaly yours,

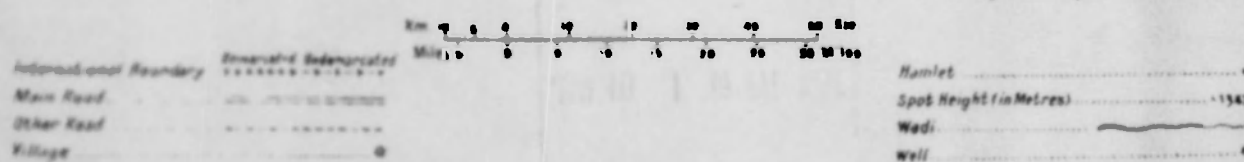
Moshe Bar-Tal
American Representative
Executive Board of
Histadrut in Israel

MBT:ms
osiu: 153

GULF OF EILAT
(AQABA)



Drawn by the Survey of Israel, April 1956



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33

FROM THE OFFICE OF
DAVID MORGAN, GENERAL, PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERSHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES
P-1010

to participate in the presentation of the Nistadrut Humanitarian Award to George Meany on February 27, 1957.

Fraternally yours,

DB:aw

National Committee for Labor Israel

Office of the
NATIONAL SECRETARY

THIRTY-THREE EAST SIXTY-SEVENTH STREET
New York 21, N. Y. • REGENT 4-6010

December 12, 1956

Mr. Dave Beck, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Beck:

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, has agreed to accept this year's Histadrut Humanitarian Award. This award will be presented to him at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on Wednesday, February 27, 1957, under the chairmanship of David Dubinsky, president, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

Past recipients of the Histadrut Humanitarian Award are the late Hon. Alben W. Barkley, 1950; the Hon. Harry S. Truman, 1951; the Hon. William O. Douglas, 1952; Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, 1953; and Governor Averall Harriman, 1955.

We would be very grateful if you would join us as Vice-Chairman of the George Meany Award Committee. We are counting on your participation to help make this award presentation memorable.

I trust that we will receive a favorable reply from you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Dov Biegun

DOV BIEGUN
National Secretary

DB:mk
Encl.

Hietadrut Humanitarian Award Committee
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Gentlemen:

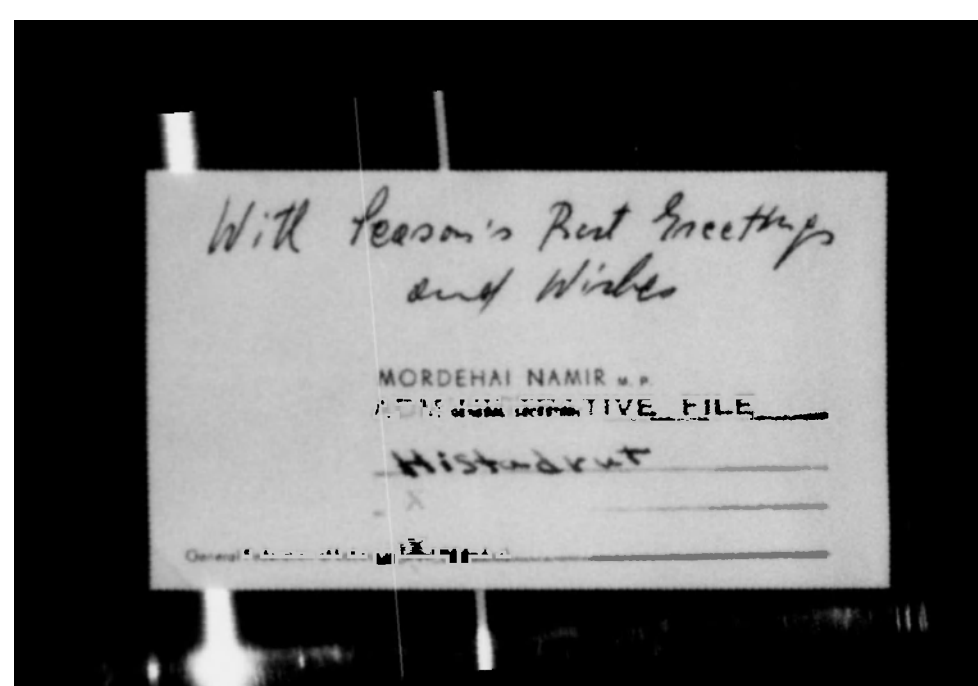
I will be happy to serve on the
Georgia Meany Award Committee and you may list
my name accordingly.

NAME _____

(SIGNATURE)

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____



ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Histadrut
A
X

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Front Page Side Page Other Page

Date: DEC 8 1957

Hoffa Seeks Funds to Aid Israeli Union

James R. Hoffa, international president of the Teamsters Union, has urged Detroit-area locals to give financial aid to Histadrut, the central Israeli trade union movement.

In letters to the presidents of 15 locals in Detroit, Hoffa said that Israel's attack on Egypt has caused

"The state of Israel, after eight years of resistance in the face of continuous provocation, attacks, murder and robbery (by the Egyptians), has undertaken to free itself from this sword under which they live," he said.

"They wish only to work their fields and live their lives as free men in their own land."

Hoffa appointed Morris Coleman, business agent of Council 43, as chairman of the fund drive.

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AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL

33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



Office of the
Executive Director

February 8, 1956

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

Dear Friend and Brother:

X

The situation in the Middle East is becoming more critical day by day. Communists are supplying arms to the Arab states. No comparable amount or quality of arms are reaching Israel. We hope that the Western democracies will take steps to prevent open conflict in that part of the world. If they do not, careful students of the situation expect that the Arab states will attack Israel.

Histadrut has sent out an urgent appeal for medical supplies. These supplies will go mainly to border settlements which are in danger of being isolated in case of invasion. Most of these border settlements are affiliated with Histadrut (General Federation of Labor of Israel). If our fondest hopes are realized and war is prevented in the Middle East, your contributions will be used for the integration of new immigrants arriving daily in Israel.

We urgently request that you make your contribution as soon as possible so that medical supplies can reach Israel before it is too late. Please make checks payable to Israel Histadrut Campaign. Enclosed is an envelope for your convenience.

Fraternally yours,

JOSEPH BRESLAW
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MOE FALKMAN
Chairman, Admin. Comm.

I.H. GOLDBERG
Chairman, Nat'l. Exec.

GREGORY J. BARDAKJE
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encl.
oslu-153

General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Haavdim)

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בצינור באמריקה

HISTADRUT HOUSE

23 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
Tel.: REcent 4-6078

January 20, 1956

Mr. David Beck, Pres.,
Int'l Bro. of Teamsters,
25 Louisiana Ave., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

HISTADRUT

X

Dear Brother Beck:

It gives me pleasure to draw your attention to the following statement by Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett during the recent Parliamentary debate on foreign policy.

The great American labor movement has its own views on foreign policy. It stands in the forefront of the fight for the defense of world democracy against totalitarianism. We are its partners in many respects — spiritual, political and social. We want its help and we are setting its help.

The two large American labor organizations have now united in one body. An organization of 16 million workers has been created which represents 40 to 50 million Americans. The merger convention of the A.F.L. and C.I.O. adopted a resolution urging arms and a security pact for Israel and opposing any truncation of Israel territory. We welcome every word in this resolution.

Our appreciation should go to Histadrut for the constant labors of its able emissaries over the years in bringing about within the American movement this full understanding of our case.

From this platform I should like to express my appreciation to the Presidents of the two organizations which have now united — George Meany and Walter Reuther.

I know that Mr. Sharett's statement reflects the attitude of all Histadrut members and the people of Israel as a whole.

Fraternally yours,

M. Bar-Tal

Moshe Bar-Tal
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut
in Israel

MB/aem

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33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



Office of the
Executive Director

December 15, 1955 ACTIVE FILE

Histadrut
x 232-030

Dear Friend and Brother:

Enclosed is a statement adopted unanimously by the
AFL-CIO Convention as part of the Foreign Policy Resolution.
You will note that this statement calls for -

- (1) "The AFL-CIO urge the United States, Britain and France to re-affirm their Tri-Partite Declaration of 1950, and to implement it by enabling the Republic of Israel to obtain arms and all other means necessary for the maintenance of its territorial integrity and national independence," and
- (2) "The best interests of our country and the needs of world peace and social progress demand that our government enter into a Mutual Security Pact with the Republic of Israel."

If this resolution is to have any meaning, we respectfully suggest it is necessary for your organization to contact your Senators and Representatives as well as the State Department and the President urging them to comply with this resolution.

Danger of an all-out war in the Middle East is imminent. It is doubted that a war between the Arab States and Israel could be confined to that area and it is quite possible that World War III could start here. This has become more evident with the communist countries providing arms to the Arab States and concluding economic agreements with them. Such a war can be prevented if our Government follows the advice given in this resolution.

Please send us copies of letters sent by your organization on this matter and copies of any replies received.

Fraternally yours,

Gregory J. Bardacke
Gregory J. Bardacke
Executive Director

OBIU-153

Resolution
adopted at
First Constitutional Convention
of the
American Federation of Labor
and
Congress of Industrial Organizations
1955
New York, New York, December 7, 1955

Particularly in view of the recent grave developments in the Middle East, our country and its allies in concert with the United Nations should take positive steps to prevent aggression in the Middle East, to improve the economic conditions of its people and to promote peaceful relations among its various peoples—based on mutual recognition of each other's national existence and territorial integrity. Towards this end, the AFL-CIO urge the United States, Britain and France to re-affirm their Tri-Partite Declaration of 1950, and to implement it by enabling the Republic of Israel to obtain arms and all other means necessary for the maintenance of its territorial integrity and national independence. The best interests of our country and the needs of world peace and social progress demand that our government enter into a Mutual Security Pact with the Republic of Israel. Such a pact would be strictly defensive in character and would not be aimed at any neighbor of Israel. Such an American-Israel Mutual Security Pact might well serve as the model for similar accords between our country and the Arab lands, thus paving the way for a Middle East Mutual Security Treaty Organisation embracing all the nations in this pivotal area, within the framework of the U.N. and dedicated to the furtherance of world peace and human well-being. Adequate economic, technical and military assistance should be made available only to those governments supporting these aims and prepared to co-operate in the peaceful solution of such pressing problems as the plight of the Arab refugees and the undisturbed use of the Suez Canal. American labor greets the Histadrut as the dynamic force in the building of Israeli democracy. We further pledge ourselves to aid the development of free trade unions throughout the Middle East as the most effective instruments for advancing social progress, human freedom and stable peaceful relations among all the nations of this vital area.

DEC 31 3 54 PM '55

RECEIVED
FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Histadrut - Newsletter
October, 1955Discovery of Oil in Israel - Means Economic Independence

Historians may mark September 22, 1955 as the real beginning of Israel's economic independence. On this day, oil was discovered. I am proud to report that members of Histadrut (Israel's labor federation) operated the oil drilling rigs. Histadrut also aided the financing of this great discovery.

Oil lubricates the modern economy. Its importance to Israel is illustrated by the fact that this small nation spends 35-40 million dollars a year on imported crude oil, which is one half of her income from export trade on oil.

The cost of oil is indeed high for Israel. Crude oil must be shipped great distances from as far afield as Venezuela because of the Arab boycott and Egypt's blockade of the Suez. A source of oil supply within Israel will free export dollars for vitally needed investment within the country as well as for the purchase of other essential imports.

Israel's life line, it can be truly said, depends upon the thin line of ships carrying oil. Should the new oil find prove to be sufficient for Israel's needs, the country will have taken a great stride towards economic independence. In addition, a domestic fuel supply will relieve Israel of her gravest military burden—the possibility of a desperate clash at her life line. Israel will be free to develop her defense in depth against aggression.

Decades of Research Precede Oil Discovery

Decades of geological research plus 18 months of intensive drilling and prospecting by several oil companies preceded the recent discovery of oil. The strike was made at Naleta, in the southern coastal plains of Israel, some 30 miles from Tel Aviv and six miles from the Egyptian occupied Gaza strip.

Histadrut oil workers struck oil at the eleventh bore in the region. Ironically, the strike occurred in a well abandoned by the Iraq Petroleum Company in 1947 just before the establishment of the Israeli state. The I. P. C. had reached a depth of 3,500 feet and quit. In August, 1955, the Lapidot-Israel Oil Prospectors Company decided to go deeper. At a depth of 4,900 feet, oil gushed.



The New York Times Sept. 24, 1955
Site of the oil well (cross)

Page 2

Two weeks later another well gushed forth from a new oil stratum, twice as thick as the first one. The new formation was reached 65 feet below the first at a depth of 4,965 feet. The second well marked the discovery of a second oil field.

In the first experimental test flow, the yield amounted to about 60 barrels of oil an hour, which if maintained, would supply about 10 percent of Israel's domestic 30.5 A. P. I. (American Petroleum Institute indicator).

Three Handicaps Balanced by Three Israeli Assets

Three grave disadvantages handicapped Israel's petroleum career: The first, the absence of native crude oil resources, is now partially remedied; the second, the refusal of a former supplier, Iraq, to permit further stocks to reach Israel through the Iraq Petroleum Company's pipeline, led to the third, which is the necessity of spending scanty foreign exchange on the purchase of crude oil from overseas.

However, the handicaps are offset by three assets: First, the presence of a fully equipped refinery at Haifa; second, the action of the government of Israel to nullify and void all commitments previous to the establishment of the state and to insist on better terms and higher payments from all oil companies; third, the high standard of scientific and industrial knowledge available in the country.

Histadrut Shares in Great Discovery

Successful efforts were made by the government of Israel to attract other concerns from outside the country. Swiss, Canadian, American, and South African enterprises showed, singly or in groups, interest in Israel's oil potential. The formation of syndicates in which Israeli share-holding—private, governmental, or Histadrut—appeared side by side with foreign investment were encouraged.

The new Israeli mining law, superseding regulations of the British Mandate, appeared in late 1952. The government's income from oil may be considerable as the terms of the concession provide for 12.5 percent royalty on the oil extracted. In addition, the profits of the company will be taxed at a 50 percent rate.

The export possibilities, in the event of sufficient oil being found, are also good. The Haifa refineries are capable of handling about four times as much crude oil as is required for local consumption.

The company striking oil, Lapidot-Israel Oil Prospecting Company, is a joint venture of Histadrut (represented by the contracting company, Solel Boneh) together with a group of Israeli and American investors, organized by the Histadrut Investment Company, AMPAL. Fate had decided that Israel's first oil gusher was to be drilled by a company in which Histadrut was a partner.

Oil—An Age Old Story

Oil wealth from beneath the surface of Israel is an age old story. Mark Anthony gave the Dead Sea to Cleopatra so that she might benefit from the "Asphalt fishery".

Page 3

Up to recent times great lumps of asphalt have floated to the surface of the sea and have been hauled to the shore. In Cleopatra's time, the asphalt was taken to Egypt for use in waterproofing buildings and mummy cases.

The age old belief that the Bible always contains a reference to current events was once again confirmed by the famous fare-ell song of Moses which was read in the synagogues on Saturday, September 24. It contains the following passage (Deuteronomy 32 10-13):

"He found him (i. e. Israel) in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness... he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock."

Fraternally yours,

Moshe Bar-Tal

Moshe Bar-Tal
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut
in Israel.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

X

X

September 12, 1955

Mr. Harry Uviller, Chairman
Histadrut Humanitarian Award Committee
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Sir:

Due to a recent illness, my doctor has ordered a temporary curtailment of my activities outside of office hours and it is, therefore, impossible for me to attend the Governor Harriman dinner on October 18.

Yours very truly,

DB:aw

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

Presentation

OF THE

HISTADRUT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

TO

Gov. Averell Harriman

AT A

DINNER

Tuesday Evening, October 18, 1955

6:30 P.M.

GRAND BALLROOM

WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL

34 PARK AVENUE AT 50TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Sponsored by

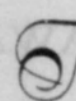
ISRAEL HISTADRUT

Contribution: \$50.00 per cover

Informal

R.S.V.P.

THE HISTADRUT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

 HIS AWARD has been presented since 1950 to leaders in American public life who, in the estimate of the Award Committee, have made "outstanding efforts in fostering sympathetic understanding between the people of the United States and the State of Israel, and who have demonstrated warm encouragement of the cause of Histadrut."

RECIPIENTS OF HUMANITARIAN AWARD:

- 1950 ALBEN W. BARKLEY, *Vice President of the United States*
- 1951 HARRY S. TRUMAN, *President of the United States*
- 1952 WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, *Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court*
- 1953 MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

GOVERNOR AVERELL HARRIMAN of New York has been chosen as recipient of the 1955 Histadrut Humanitarian Award. It is indeed a privilege to have this distinguished liberal join the company of those who have been thus honored for their friendship to Israel and its pioneering vanguard, Histadrut.

GOVERNOR HARRIMAN, throughout a lifetime of public service, has maintained the highest level of participation in constructive humanitarian endeavors. A man of world-wide experience and of personal integrity, Governor Harriman has stood by the Jewish people during long years of struggle for their independence. Adviser and confidante of two presidents, and a high official in his own right, Governor Harriman has always evinced a keen interest in safeguarding the legitimate rights of Israel. His sense of justice has prompted him to become associated with the friends of Histadrut, the federation of pioneers and workers who laid the foundation and made possible the rebirth of Israel. Governor Harriman has endorsed American efforts to aid Histadrut in the area of medical care, vocational training, cultural advancement and economic rehabilitation of refugees. It is for this reason that business, labor, professional and fraternal bodies have joined to make this Award to Governor Harriman on October 18th.

Proceeds of the \$50.00 per plate Presentation Dinner will be transmitted in honor of Governor Harriman to Kupat Holim, medical arm of Histadrut, which safeguards the health of all immigrants in Israel. Thus, the occasion of the Award will be aptly translated into a great humanitarian deed by the thousands of well-wishers paying tribute to Governor Harriman.

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MR. HARRY UVILLER, CHAIRMAN
Histadrut Humanitarian Award Committee
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

MR. HARRY UVILLER, Chairman
HINTADRUT HUMANITARIAN AWARD COMMITTEE
33 East 67th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Uviller:

Please reserve covers for the Humanitarian Award
Presentation Dinner on Tuesday, October 18th, at 6:30 P.M. in the Grand
Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Park Avenue and 50th Street, New
York City.

I enclose my check for \$ (\$50.00 contribution per cover)

NAME

FIRM

ADDRESS

(Please make check payable to Hintadrut)

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ADMINISTRATIVE FILE ✓

Histadrut

X Mentin, Charles

X

July 11, 1955

Mr. Charles Mentin
2800 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington

Dear Chuck:

A lady by the name of Nathalie E. Panek is going to contact you shortly regarding Histadrut. She is a very fine person and is working for Histadrut in the Los Angeles area. She wishes to set up some kind of cooperation in the Southern area.

I would appreciate it if you would give her what help you can.

Sincerely,

William M. Griffin
National Director
Miscellaneous Division

WMG/ak

C
O
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Y

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AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL
of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL



July 5, 1955

William F. Griffin, Chairman
National Miscellaneous Conference
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brother Griffin:

I enjoyed meeting and talking with you very much. I hope that something will bring you back to Los Angeles one of these days and that you will call me.

I shall follow through on your suggestion regarding John Stevenson. I hope that it will result in getting some local Teamsters interested in Histadrut. If they could only talk with you I am sure they would be but perhaps we can provide some good substitutes.

Greg Bardacke has advised me that Moshe Bar-Tal (who replaces Bitan as Israeli representative to the U.S.) will be on the west coast in late September. Seattle is among the cities will visit. I would appreciate it very much if you would write to your successor, Mr. Mentrin and let him know who I am and that I shall be in Seattle the first week in August. If he will see me in August we can then jointly explore just what should be planned for Bar-Tal's visit.

As I told you, we would like to have a local organization of the American Trade Union Council of the National Committee for Labor Israel in every major city of the U.S. It is possible that an affair for Bar-Tal might bring together the key labor people who would later form a Trade Union Council. I hasten to tell you, so that Mr. Mentrin won't be alarmed, that the principle purpose of Trade Union Councils is to provide moral support to the Israeli labor movement and information and understanding to American labor. This does not require work, money or meetings. (at least not very much)

If Mr. Mentrin will draw me a note directly we can arrange, at his convenience, to get together to discuss what can and should be done.

Thank you for your interest and your help.

Fraternal yours,

Nat. alie A. anek, Executive Sec.
Western Region

Western Region Office, 624 So. La Brea • Suite 208 • Los Angeles 36, Calif. • WEbster R 3201

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AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



January 10, 1955

Office of the
Executive Director

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

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X

Dear Friend and Brother:

The Installation Dinner for the newly elected officers of the American Trade Union Council will take place MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH at 6:00 p.m., in the East Ballroom of the Commodore Hotel, 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue, N.Y.C.

Among those who will be present will be ABRAHAM HARMAN, Consul General of the Israel Consulate in New York City, who will speak on the latest economic and political developments in Israel; MOSHE HAR-TAL, Histadrut Representative in the United States, who will speak on the current developments in Histadrut; and ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, General Counsel of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the United Steelworkers of America, and also Chairman of our National Executive Committee, who will discuss American labor's stake in a democratic Israel.

We have also arranged for a preview of the latest color film "FACES OF ISRAEL." This film is one of the most exciting and unusual stories to come out of Israel. It depicts the life of Israel's ordinary citizen through the intimate experiences of seven persons. The meaning of liberty to men and women and youth is unfolded.

We are sending you a reservation blank for your convenience. Please return it to us as soon as possible. The \$6.00 charge will go toward defraying the expenses of the dinner.

Fraternal yours,

JOSEPH BRESLAW
Chairman

MOE FALTEMAN
Chairman, Admin. Comm.

GEORGE J. BARDACKE
Executive Director

MORDECAI BARIAS
Associate Director

sk
cc:153
encls. 2

P.S. A picture of the new Executive Committee and Officers will be taken at 5:45 p.m. sharp.

RESERVATION BLANK

Please make _____ reservations for the Installation
Dinner of the new Officers and Executive Committee
of the American Trade Union Council, Monday February
7th, 6:00 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Commodore
Hotel.

I am enclosing \$ _____ at \$6.00 per person.

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

	(Name)	(Address)
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
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5.	_____	_____
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8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

(Please make checks payable to ISRAEL HISTADRUT
CAMPAIGN)

May, 1955

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Record Polling In Histadrut Elections

At 1,500 polling stations in 600 towns, cities and villages throughout Israel, 431,000 Histadrut trade unionists (85% of those eligible to vote) went to the polls on May 8 to elect 801 delegates to Histadrut's eighth Convention.

Mapai, the Israeli Labor Party, won an absolute majority with 237,000 votes (56%), with Achdut Avoda (Workers Unity) second in the field of seven receiving 14.5%.

As described in my Newsletter of March, 1955 (Volume Three - Number Three), Histadrut elections are held on the basis of proportional representation and the number of Convention delegates allotted to each party is proportionate to the votes polled by it.

Important political changes have taken place in Histadrut since the last elections in 1949, when Mapai's chief challenger, the Mapam Party, polled well over a third of the total votes and formed a united left-wing opposition. Since then Mapam has split three times, throwing off splinters to the left and right. The election results show that this left-wing party sustained the biggest loss. In the previous elections Mapam, then united with Achdut Avoda, received 34.5%. Now, alone, it obtained only 12.5%. Achdut Avoda, standing alone for the first time, took the lion's share of the previous Mapam vote. Between them the two left-wing parties formerly constituting Mapam have about 20% less than before. Of the smaller parties, the Progressives polled 5.2%, the General Zionists 3.8% and the religious group 2%. The tiny Communist party polled 4.1%.

Mapai Out In Front

In the face of the combined onslaught of all opposition groups, Mapai has maintained its paramount position with remarkable success, even registering a gain. With all the difficulty involved in leading Histadrut along the middle of the road throughout the years, through the days of war and peace, the creation and consolidation of the State, mass immigration, and the pioneering that has fundamentally changed the face of the country, Mapai has had the support of well over half the voters, including both skilled and unskilled workers, technicians, clerks, teachers and professional workers. With their help, Mapai

carried out its program of building the country for the present and the future, of converting the great masses of helpless immigrants into self-reliant workers, and of creating a trade union that safeguards their rights and offers them the security of cooperative ventures and welfare.

The people of Israel noted with special interest that of the Histadrut members eligible to vote, 85% streamed to the polls, although about 250,000 of them are new to the Histadrut and dozens of thousands of them never before took any part whatever in democratic elections anywhere. Three times as many members were entitled to vote as in the last election in 1949. Most of Histadrut's stupendous numerical growth since the birth of the state has come from the ranks of immigrants. Of the 700,000 who came into the country between 1948 and 1951, almost half were from Oriental countries, where labor organizations are practically unknown. Nevertheless, the newcomers on the whole tended to move solidly into labor ranks. Today, on the eve of Histadrut's eighth Convention, about 33% of the country's total population are members of Histadrut. This is one of the highest ratios of organized labor to total population anywhere in the free western world.

First-Time Voters

At least half the voters came to Israel after 1948 from countries where democracy has always been and still is unknown. Elsewhere in the world, such human material serves as an ideal recruiting ground for totalitarian movements like Communism or Fascism. Not so in Israel, where the vast majority of newcomers have been absorbed into democratic parties. The energetic efforts of the Communists to gain converts among them failed signally.

Another unique feature of the elections was women's participation. Workers' wives, who have equal rights in Histadrut even though they are not employed outside the home, went to the polls in large numbers. Women account for 47.4% of Histadrut's membership, and at least a third of the delegates to the Convention come from their ranks.

In Tel Aviv, the country's largest city, 56 emergency polling stations had to be set up owing to the extreme congestion at the 186 regular stations. All through the day crowds of voters, including housewives, besieged the stations, and at some places voters had to wait at least an hour. In Jerusalem, the country's capital, the President of the State, the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers cast their votes.

Voting in the settlements finished early. At many places it was possible to close the polling in mid-afternoon.

All in all, the elections represented a triumph for Histadrut and a victory for democracy in Israel. The elections, unmarred by the violence and disorder that mark elections in other Middle Eastern coun-

tries, demonstrated Israel's stability and maturity. Although Mapai is by far the largest group in Histadrut, there is no party rule within the organization. Minorities do not lose their claim to representation on all committees and institutions. The majority acts, but takes the minority views into consideration.

On the whole, the Histadrut elections are regarded in Israel as a straw in the wind, indicating the probable outcome of the country's Parliamentary elections in July.

Faternally yours,

M. Bar-Tal

Moshe Bar-Tal
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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Labor in Israel

VOLUME THREE - NUMBER FOUR

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut - News Letter
April, 1955

Israel's Social Security

Israel's National Insurance Law has its first anniversary this month. Israel is the only country in the Middle East with a national insurance scheme covering the entire working population.

The enactment of a National Insurance Law only six years after the achievement of independence was due primarily to the predominant role played by Histadrut in the country's affairs. Although the Act, which came into effect in April, 1954, was Israel's first legislative measure in the field of national insurance, it was not an entirely new feature for most workers. Through its collective agreements, Histadrut had already secured many of the benefits for a large number of workers, and served to set the standard for national insurance and for general labor legislation. Furthermore, Histadrut took a direct part in framing and administering the National Insurance program.

Histadrut's influence has been felt in many ways. For one thing, the Minister of Labor and National Insurance as well as other members of the Government responsible for the insurance program are Histadrut leaders. The entire program was drafted by an Inter-Ministerial Commission whose Chairman was the Director of the Histadrut Sick Fund (Kupat Holim). Histadrut, as the largest workers' organization, is represented on the Council governing the National Insurance Institute, as is its women's section.

Types of Benefits

The National Insurance Law is a contributory insurance scheme providing for old-age and survivors pension, maternity benefits and industrial accident insurance for all employed and self-employed persons. Housewives may voluntarily insure themselves for the benefits available under the law. This measure is part of a comprehensive insurance program, to be introduced in stages over several years, which will add unemployment and disability insurance and a national health scheme to the benefits already available. Meanwhile, Kupat Holim provides all its members with complete medical care, including hospitalization. By special arrangement, many non-Histadrut members also receive benefits from this fund.

About 950,000 men, women and children are now insured with Kupat Holim, about 66% of Israel's entire population. These include many Arab workers who joined the Fund during the past year. Kupat Holim maintains 14 major hospitals as well as 862 clinics throughout the country. There is at least one such clinic in every town, suburb, village, farm settlement and immigrant camp in Israel.

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The National Insurance Institute which administers the law is not part of Israel's civil service. Its 40-man Council is appointed by the Minister of Labor, who acts as Chairman, and includes representatives of government departments and organisations of workers, employers, self-employed persons and women.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS are payable to men of 65 and women of 60 who are not gainfully employed (70 and 65 if they continue to work). The Minister is authorised to reduce the pensionable age to not less than 62 for men and 57 for women engaged in manual labor. The qualifying period for old-age pensions is normally five years, but residents of Israel who were between 60 and 67 (or between 55 and 62) when the Act was passed will qualify after only three years. The basic pension is 15 pounds a month for a single person and 22.5 pounds for a couple. Additions are made for children under 18 who are still at school, the maximum basic pension being 34 pounds a month. All pensions will be increased by a cost-of-living supplement varying with changes in the official price index in the same way that wages are adjusted to the index. Gross pensions can therefore not be predicted, since they depend on future fluctuations of the index.

SURVIVORS PENSIONS. Childless widows under 40 will receive a basic lump-sum grant of 180 pounds upon the husband's death; widows over 40, with children, will receive a monthly survivors pension ranging, according to their age, from 50% to 100% of the old-age pension. Orphans, too, are entitled to a pension. All these survivors pension or grants are also increased by the cost-of-living supplement.

FUNERAL EXPENSES are paid by the Institute for all insured people and their dependents.

MATERNITY BENEFITS. Two allocations are made: a maternity allowance and a maternity grant. The allowance is paid only to women who were employed at least ten months before delivery and who are entitled to stay away from work six weeks before and six weeks after delivery. This allowance is equal to 75% of the usual salary. On the other hand, the maternity grant of 55 pounds is paid to all workers, whether working or not.

EMPLOYMENT INJURY INSURANCE applies to all employees and covers occupational diseases as well as injuries incurred in the course of work or while traveling to and from work. Cash benefits begin from the second day of injury and are equal to 75% of the wage for a period up to 26 weeks. A new amendment will insure the self-employed against work accidents — an innovation which most nations have yet to adopt. Where disability persists, the injured worker is eligible for a disability pension. In case of fatal injury, the worker's widow and dependents are entitled to survivors pensions.

Financing The Program

The financial basis of the insurance program is provided by contributions of employers, employees and self-employed persons, with the Government contributing to the cost of pension and maternity insurance. Employees contribute 1.4% of their gross wages; employers contribute 1.9% and self-employed

3.3%. Employment injury insurance, on the other hand, is covered entirely by employers, and ranges from 0.5% to 3% of the payroll.

The financial demands are now more easily met because industry and workers are already accustomed to setting aside a portion of wages for voluntary insurance, through workers provident funds established by collective bargaining. The law permits the deduction of national insurance from contributions to these provident funds. Histadrut is now exploring the possibility of utilizing workers' savings deposited with it to create a supplementary pension fund which, combined with state pensions, will ensure a full measure of security for retiring workers.

In addition to the provident funds, there are Histadrut's own welfare institutions for assistance to aged members, dependents of deceased members and similar persons in need. The assistance provided by these institutions will continue to be granted, supplementing government pensions.

For the Arab population of Israel, as for many immigrants from backward countries, national insurance represents a revolutionary social change. The greatest significance of the new legislation is that it extends to the entire working population a system of social insurance whose standard was set by the most progressive element of the population — the labor movement.

Fraternaly yours,

Moshe Bar-Tal
Moshe Bar-Tal
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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Labor in Israel

VOLUME THREE - NUMBER THREE

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut - Newsletter
March, 1955

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Histadrut Elections

The Histadrut Executive Committee has announced that elections to Histadrut's governing body, its General Convention, are to be held throughout Israel on May 8. Elections will be on the basis of proportional representation, and in accordance with Histadrut's constitution any group may submit candidates by producing the endorsing signatures of one hundred eligible voters. National and local election committees, representing all trends within Histadrut, have been appointed by the Executive to supervise election arrangements.

Histadrut voters in the May 8 elections will also choose officers for a number of other Histadrut institutions. Women members will elect delegates to the Convention of the Workingwomen's Council. Delegates to 58 Local Labor Councils will be elected throughout the country. Members of collective and cooperative villages will select their delegates to the Convention of the Farm Workers Organization.

Every paid-up Histadrut member over 18 — man or woman, Jew or Arab — is entitled to vote. Of the 510,000 enrolled members in good standing on January 1, a total of more than 485,000 are expected to exercise that right on May 8. While the Convention is ordinarily held every four years, local circumstances made it impossible to hold once since 1949. The intervening years constituted the period of mass immigration, during which hundreds of thousands of immigrants poured into Israel, and about 52% of this year's voters will be new immigrants who have never taken part in Histadrut elections before.

A special feature of the elections will be the polling stations set up in all army camps to enable men and women in the services who have kept their Histadrut membership to vote for the candidates of their choice.

Proportional Representation

Because of the way in which Histadrut developed in the days before the State of Israel was created, elections to the General Convention are on a party basis. All the labor parties and groups represented in the country's Parliament operate within Histadrut. The number of Convention delegates allotted to each party is proportionate to the votes polled by the party. Because of the high number of voters (about 50% of the number of voters taking part in national parliamentary elections), the Histadrut elections are expected to serve as a straw vote foretelling the results of the parlia-

mentary elections in July.

The results of the 1949 elections were as follows:

Israel Labor Party (Mapai)	57.1%
United Workers' Party (Mapam)	34.4%
Progressive Workers (Haoved Hazoni)	3.8%
Communists	2.6%
Religious Workers (Haoved Haiaiti)	2.1%

Since then, the United Workers Party has split, with a minority forming a new party, called Achdut Avoda (Workers Unity). Of the former 20 Mapam members on Histadrut's Executive Committee, 11 have remained with Mapam and nine have joined the new party.

Haoved Hazoni is part of the Progressive Party and draws its main strength from professional people, government officials and, to a certain extent, rural and urban workers.

Soviet Communism's extreme anti-Zionist attitude for the last 30 years is one reason for Communism's failure to gain a foot-hold in Israel; but the more important factor is the genuinely democratic character of the labor movement in Israel ever since its inception. For decades Israel's labor movement has been vehemently opposed to totalitarianism from the left as well as the right.

Democratic Practices

The table reproduced above indicates that Histadrut does not insist on conformity of opinion. Many political points of view are represented. Histadrut as such is not a political body. Its policies are determined by free and democratic elections and are shaped by the majority, by which, as in any democratic organization, the minority is bound.

Since the creation of Histadrut in 1920 these policies have been characterized by a high degree of stability. The Israel Labor Party (Mapai) has been in the majority since it was created 25 years ago. Its practices have been flexibly designed to meet the needs of the country and of the labor movement. Its leaders as well as the rank-and-file are imbued with a highly developed social conscience and national awareness. They regard it as their special mission to create a country whose spiritual values and cultural life, as well as social organization, will express a synthesis of Israel's ancient traditions of social justice and modern ideals of liberty and democracy.

For example, Mapai believes in cooperative enterprise as one of the most efficient instruments for the development of Israel; at the same time, it welcomes and encourages private enterprise, local and foreign. This middle-of-the-road policy has been advocated by Mapai leaders serving in the Cabinet of Israel — all of whom have been members of Histadrut for many years and actively guided its policies before the State of Israel was created.

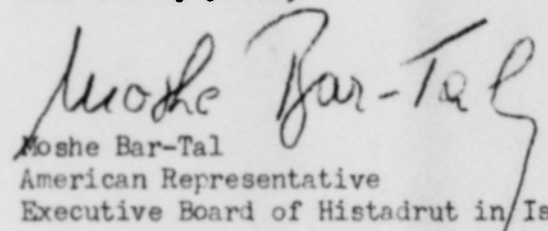
Histadrut's membership closely parallels the country's electorate in the national elections, and it was almost inevitable that Mapai's ascendancy in Histadrut should be reflected in Parliament. At the last Parliamentary elections in July 1951, Mapai polled 37.3% of the votes, more than double that of the next largest party.

When the delegates of the various parties are elected, the General Convention will meet to hear a full report on Histadrut activities and problems. Among other things it will

- 1 - Debate the report;
- 2 - Determine broad policy for the future;
- 3 - Elect a Council which will act as the Histadrut authority between Conventions.

It is this Council which will choose the Executive Committee of 58 members as well as other institutions. The Executive meets twice a month and actively controls all Histadrut activities. It supervises all administrative work in all the departments and also nominates a nine-man Executive Bureau which meets once a week to operate the day-to-day activities of Histadrut.

Fraternally yours,


Moshe Bar-Tal
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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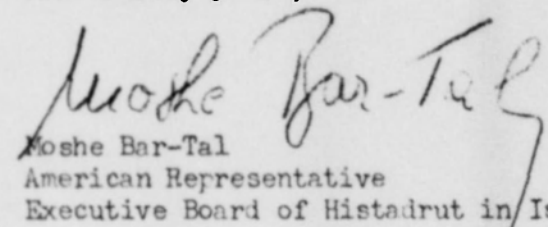
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Fraternally yours,


Moshe Bar-Tal
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME THREE - NUMBER ONE

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut - News Letter

January, 1955

Collective Bargaining in Israel

The new year having begun, labor and management in Israel are again entering on the laborious process of re-negotiating contracts. In most cases the negotiations follow a pattern which has evolved over many years and differs in many ways from procedures in other countries.

Representatives of national or local unions who meet with management are guided by a broad wage policy adopted by the Histadrut's Executive Committee and Trade Union Department. This policy may set a ceiling on the increases to be demanded by a national union, or may provide that a union should concentrate on fringe benefits rather than wage increases in a particular year. Since all national unions and local labor councils are represented on the Histadrut Executive Committee, this general policy is the fruit of viewpoints presented by all concerned.

In industries where manufacturers have no national association, the bargaining is done on a local level, the local branches of the national union negotiating directly with manufacturers. These branches adhere to the national policies set by the Histadrut Executive, and all contracts must be countersigned by the local labor councils.

Some industries have no formal machinery for collective bargaining. In these cases the national union announces wage rates and conditions unilaterally. This is the case, for instance, in the building industry, which does not have a well organized employers association. The rates and conditions set by the national union are generally accepted.

National collective agreements cover the great majority of workers in the metal industry, printing, textile and other trades. They are signed for labor by the national union and the Histadrut's Trade Union Department, and for management by the Manufacturers Association. A national union which embraces a number of trades may sign more than one agreement. The Food Workers' Union has separate agreements for breweries, jam factories, cigarette factories and others. The Clerical Workers' Union signs separate agreements for bank employees, municipal workers, etc. In certain cases a union may conclude national agreements in some trades and local agreements in others.

Agricultural wage rates are set by the Farm Workers Union after consultation with the growers and plantation owners, without formal negotiations. The Farmers Association is not as closely knit as its industrial counterpart, the Manufacturers Association, and contracts therefore depend on the union's strength in a particular area.

A new development may considerably alter these procedures. For some time Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association have discussed a basic collective agreement covering clauses already common to all contracts, such as recognition of unions as the bargaining agents, hiring through labor exchanges, consent of shop committees for dismissal of employees, etc. This is to be supplemented by specific agreements for each industry.

Labor Legislation

Israel has no laws governing collective bargaining. Both in theory and practice, the unions are free of government control. There are no laws limiting the right to strike or in any way restricting any union.

A bill sanctioning collective bargaining agreements has been drafted by the Ministry of Labor's Advisory Committee and submitted to the Knesset (Parliament). Histadrut and the employers' associations are both represented on this committee.

Labor's position in Israel was very succinctly described in the November 1954 issue of the International Labor Review published by the ILO in Geneva ("Freedom of Association and Industrial Relations in the Countries of the Near and Middle East," by J. A. Hallaworth):

In Israel the right of occupational association is neither formally guaranteed nor restricted by legislation, but is exercised as an established and traditional practice; trade unions are in fact organized under the general law concerning non-profit-making societies, which provides simply that any number of persons may establish a society for any lawful purpose. The trade union system covers all branches of the economy, both public and private, as well as the liberal professions. Civil servants, for example, are organized in an association affiliated to the Histadrut, which has negotiated collective agreements with the Government. The extent of trade unionism among other governmental workers and employees may be judged from the fact that there exist a government employees union, catering among others for railway, post and telegraph workers, a national union of civilian employees of the armed services and a federation of teachers. National unions of medical practitioners, nurses and pharmacists are all affiliated to the Histadrut. Seamen belong to the National Union of Seamen, while the Agricultural Workers Union is one of the most fully organized in Israel.

In many instances collective agreements contain provisions whereby the employer recognizes the union and recognizes the right to organize and bargain collectively.

In short, without any intervention of the law, the Histadrut in particular has attained its objective of "embracing in one organizational structure both urban and rural workers of all trades and professions." The Government has expressed its intention, however, of enacting a special law regarding trade unions.

Two years ago, about the time our first Newsletter appeared, Histadrut in Israel decided to establish a permanent office here in New York and entrusted me with the authority to represent it in the U. S. and Canada. I accepted this assignment on a temporary basis, and when I expressed my desire last summer to return home to Israel, the Executive Board appointed Brother Moshe Bar-Tal, of the Trade Union Department of Histadrut to succeed me here. Brother Bar-Tal, who had served for two years as Israeli Labor Attache in London (on loan from Histadrut to our government), has already arrived in the U. S. to assume his new duties.

I therefore wish to take this opportunity to thank all my friends in the American and Canadian labor movements for the cooperation they have given me during the last two years. Every one of them did his best to make me feel at home and helped to make my job easier and my stay pleasanter.

As I am planning to leave in March, 1955, this is the last Newsletter over my own signature. I would like to say good-bye here to all of you to whom I shall have no opportunity of doing so personally, and I hope to meet you again some day, preferably in Israel. The next Newsletter will be written by Brother Moshe Bar-Tal, to whom I hope you will accord the same cooperation you have given me.

With best wishes,

Faternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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VOLUME THREE - NUMBER ONE

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
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January, 1955
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Two years ago, about the time our first Newsletter appeared, Histadrut in Israel decided to establish a permanent office here in New York and entrusted me with the authority to represent it in the U. S. and Canada. I accepted this assignment on a temporary basis, and when I expressed my desire last summer to return home to Israel, the Executive Board appointed Brother Moshe Bar-Tal, of the Trade Union Department of Histadrut to succeed me here. Brother Bar-Tal, who had served for two years as Israeli Labor Attache in London (on loan from Histadrut to our government), has already arrived in the U. S. to assume his new duties.

I therefore wish to take this opportunity to thank all my friends in the American and Canadian labor movements for the cooperation they have given me during the last two years. Every one of them did his best to make me feel at home and helped to make my job easier and my stay pleasanter.

As I am planning to leave in March, 1955, this is the last Newsletter over my own signature. I would like to say good-by here to all of you to whom I shall have no opportunity of doing so personally, and I hope to meet you again some day, preferably in Israel. The next Newsletter will be written by Brother Moshe Bar-Tal, to whom I hope you will accord the same cooperation you have given me.

With best wishes,

Faternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:ll
oeiu:153

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AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4 6010



Office of the
Executive Director

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Chastadut Road
Union Council

December 6, 1954

X

Dear Brother Kaplan:

We are officially informing you of your election as
Co-Chairman.

This election took place at the Annual Convention of the
American Trade Union Council held at the Commodore Hotel
in New York City on Saturday, November 27th. We are
happy to inform you that you were elected unanimously by
the delegates to our Convention.

Please fill out the enclosed card and return it to us at
your earliest possible convenience. The New York State
Law requires that you do so before we can include you on
our stationery.

Allow me to thank you for your many past services, and I
am looking forward to your cooperation and support for
this coming year.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph Breslaw

JOSEPH BRESLAW
Chairman
American Trade Union Council

jb/ec
cc:153
encl.

December, 1954

HISTADRUT'S NEW ARAB TRADE UNIONISTS

Among the many problems which Histadrut tackled following the creation of the State of Israel, one of the thorniest was the organization of Arab workers within the framework of the trade union movement. Because of the special circumstances of Arab society, Histadrut met with a number of unusual situations which did not always fit in with the orthodox methods of trade union organization worked out over a period of thirty years. Many Arab workers are peasants, farming their own tiny holdings. Histadrut therefore laid stress on associating them with the cooperative movement, and time has proved that this was a wise step. As a result there has been an amazing economic advance of the Arab community generally and especially of the rural sector since the establishment of the State of Israel. The Arab rural population of Israel is today probably the most prosperous and most advanced in the entire Arab world.

Early in 1949 Histadrut established a special fund to encourage Arab cooperatives in trade and industry, marketing, production, credit, agriculture, housing and irrigation. Both the Histadrut and the Arab workers and peasants themselves contributed toward this fund which has in the last several years granted loans totaling about \$100,000 to various Arab cooperatives sponsored by Histadrut. Shareholders in this fund include Arab tradesmen, shopkeepers, clerks, teachers, peasants and both men and women workers. These activities stimulated the Arab workers to undertake constructive efforts of their own and to advance the economic and social interests of their community.

Opposition of Communists and Feudal Landlords

The fund had to make its way against opposition of various types, as described by Reuven Barkat, member of the Histadrut Executive Bureau and Director of Histadrut's Arab Department, at a recent meeting of the shareholders of the cooperative fund:

"Our efforts to develop the fund were constantly attacked by the Communists, who conducted an unrestrained campaign of vilification against us, and tried to persuade the Arab workers that whoever bought shares of the Fund was throwing his money away. At the other extreme, reactionary semi-feudal elements, some representing landlords and others serving the interests of foreign countries, seek to strengthen themselves politically by encouraging nationalist feeling, fomenting discord and erecting artificial barriers between the Arab population and the State, including Histadrut. In spite of these attacks, we are happy to announce that shares to the value of IL.85,000 have been taken up, of which IL.45,000 has been paid in cash. This sum is not very great, but it expresses a turning point in that it reflects the Arab community's willingness to participate in work and responsibility. It is to be hoped that this beginning will be maintained."

The Fund secured land for the landless peasants and provided employment for Arab workers. The Arab cooperatives affiliated to the Fund have created hundreds of permanent jobs for Arabs who would otherwise be unemployed.

Difficulties in Organizing Arab Workers

Histadrut also came up against unusual problems in its efforts to organize the Arab industrial worker. Arab workers, accustomed to living under conditions of oppression for centuries, were naturally suspicious when asked to sign up as Histadrut members. A great deal of explanation was required to allay their fears.

Similarly, Histadrut has found it extremely difficult to do a thorough job of organizing farm laborers in Arab communities because of the peculiar social conditions prevailing in these sectors. Sometimes it is difficult to ascertain the exact ownership of a farm on which a worker is employed. Sometimes the worker, because of complicated family relationships in Arab villages, turns out to be part owner (perhaps only 1/64) as well as hired hand.

The relationship between the Arab employee and the Arab employer also makes organization difficult. When, as is frequently the case, the employee is a member of the employer's family, it is difficult to get the men together for concerted action for their own benefit. Nevertheless this has frequently been done and there have been many cases of workers taking action against employers who are relatives.

The Town of Acre

A typical example of Histadrut success among Arab workers is the town of Acre north of Haifa, with a mixed Jewish-Arab population. The Histadrut's Labor Council in Acre has an Arab on its staff dealing with organization of Arab workers. They organized employees of cigarette factories, bakeries, Government offices and others. Taking advantage of their new membership, Acre's Arab workers now regularly visit the Labor Council's office to discuss their problems.

Nazareth

In Nazareth, a purely Arab town, many workers have been organized and agreements have been signed with a number of employers. Considerable interest was aroused among the Arab workers when a workman who was injured at work received \$1,750 compensation and an additional \$600 in wages for time lost. In this town, as well as in other Arab areas, the general level of wages has been substantially raised through the efforts of Histadrut, in many cases retroactively.

Special efforts have been made to improve the working conditions of Arabs employed by Arab municipalities, where conditions are usually far below par. Negotiations have begun with mayors and local municipal councils for better wages and hours and for a program of vocational training for municipal employees, either through the Clerical Workers Union or by having employees work for short periods in similar Jewish offices.

Medical Insurance for Arab Workers

Arab workers in Histadrut share in the program of full medical care provided by Histadrut's Sick Fund. Membership in Histadrut includes medical insurance for the member and his entire family. In some Arab areas new Sick Fund medical centers had to be built so as to give the newly insured full medical assistance.

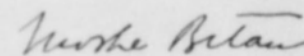
Arab workers now regularly spend annual vacations at rest homes in recreation centers near Nazareth and Haifa. For most of them these are the first vacations they have ever had in their lives. An important aspect of these vacations is that Arab workers and Jewish workers are thrown together for a couple of weeks in a way which makes it easy for them to get to know and understand each other better.

Israeli Arab Visits U.S. on Point Four Program

An example of the extent to which the Arab worker has been integrated into the complete life of Histadrut is provided by George Kteili. Kteili, who lives in Nazareth, is employed in the Labor Exchange Department of the Israel Government's Ministry of Labor. Recently he was nominated to accept an invitation extended by the U.S. Government to pay a four-month visit to the U.S. under the Point Four program. He is the first Israeli Arab to be able to take advantage of this invitation, and he will presumably be followed by others.

In its efforts to absorb the Arab working community within its ranks, Histadrut has encountered problems and difficulties it had never faced before. The Arab-Jewish War took place only six short years ago, and the inevitable residue has sometimes made it extremely difficult to organize the Arab workers. The centuries-old traditions of the Arab community and the entrenched subservience to feudal or paternalistic employers which is so common throughout the Arab world have operated against the efforts of Histadrut to organize Arab workers. Nevertheless Histadrut has met with far greater success than it had dared to hope, and there is now no doubt that in the course of time the Arab working community will stand in the same relationship to Histadrut as does the Jewish working community in Israel today.

Faternally yours,



Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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General Federation of Labor in Israel

[Histadrut Ma'ariv]

EXECUTIVE BOARD

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

התאחדות הכללית של העובדים בארץ ישראל

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HISTADRUT HOUSE

33 East 67th Street

New York 21, N. Y.

Tel.: REcord 4-6010

ADMIN. FILE

Histadrut

Beck, Dave - for

Eastern Trip

November 19, 1954

Mr. Dave Beck, President
Teamsters
100 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brother Beck:

You might be interested to read the remarks of the Israel Delegate to the UN, Mr. David Macohan before the Social and Economic Committee of the United Nations on the economic programs for the underdeveloped countries.

Mr. Macohan, not a professional diplomat, is at present Israel's Minister to Burma. He is one of the directors of the largest building and industrial concerns in Israel which is owned by Histadrut. He has, during his year's stay in Burma, tried to use his own experience in Israel for aiding the Burmese in their development schemes. His remarks do not deal with any problems affecting Israel as such, but rather with problems facing the entire free world in its fight for freedom by raising the standards of living of underdeveloped areas in Asia.

Sincerely yours,

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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enc.

PRESS RELEASE



מדינת ישראל

DELEGATION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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DIRECTOR OF PRESS RELATIONS
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October 19, 1954

STATEMENT BY MR. DAVID HACHEN
BEFORE THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
On October 19, 1954

It is obvious that a new direction has been given to this general debate by Mr. Raymond Scheyven's admirable presentation last week. Instead of a loose discussion of all aspects of the economic situation of the underdeveloped countries, attention has inevitably been focused upon the external financing of economic development and particularly on the Special United Nations Fund, for the future of which Mr. Scheyven has courageously accented responsibility.

I do not think that this is an illogical or unwelcome development. It is, I think, agreed that all underdeveloped countries face some, if not all, of these fundamental problems: inadequate food supply; insufficient and rudimentary industry; a high mortality rate due to disease and malnutrition; untrained and inexperienced administrations and low standards in education. These grim facts are illustrated and confirmed by a few graphic figures. In a world containing 2500 million people, increasing in population at a rate in excess of 1½ per annum, over half live in Asia. But this half received but 11% of world income. North America, with 10% of the population of the world, has about 45% of world income. The table on page 2 of Mr. Scheyven's report shows clearly that two-thirds of the people of the world have only 15% of world income, while the remaining third enjoys 85% or, per capita, an average individual income 12 times greater than the majority. These problems can be solved, given the will, by the combination of two forces - money and skill, and the question which faces this Committee, which faces this...

which faces this Assembly, which indeed faces the world, is how to make these two forces available to all who need them. It is, in passing, a measure of our progress that we recognise what the problems are and talk in terms of their solution. That in itself is half the battle.

The United Nations, individually and severally, have been far more successful in mobilising skill in the service of the underdeveloped countries than they have in mobilising money. The Expanded Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies, the Technical Cooperation Programmes of the United States Government, the Colombo Plan and the bilateral programmes conducted by France, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and other countries all combine to form an impressive aggregation of valuable skills which are being utilised with increasing efficiency and understanding in the underdeveloped and semi-developed countries of the world. However, Technical Assistance is by itself not a solution for economic backwardness. Indeed, as Mr. Scheyvon has hinted, Technical Assistance might even under certain circumstances have a deleterious effect upon the economy of an underdeveloped country because of the demands for investment capital which it may generate. There is, of course, an optimum amount of technical assistance which any country can absorb at any given time, and that optimum is largely, although not exclusively, determined by the rate of capital investment in the country concerned.

One is thus forced to revert to the first of the two forces which are required to provide a solution to the problems of economic development in the underdeveloped countries - money, or, in the proper terminology, investment capital. Investment capital in an underdeveloped country can come from two sources; it can come from within or it can come from without. By capital from within I do not mean the normal process of equity investment which is common in the industrialised countries - there is little tradition of such investment in the underdeveloped countries and in any case the vast sums required do not exist. I refer to the creation of capital by forms of coercion. Democratic countries are precluded from using this means. They can guide and, within reason, they can direct, and in so doing they can generate a certain amount of capital, but the very nature of their societies precludes coercive methods. Thus in the majority, the vast majority, of the underdeveloped countries...

underdeveloped countries, the objective opportunities for the internal financing of large scale economic development projects are severely limited. These countries then are inevitably thrown back on external financing to solve the greater part of their economic problems. In other words, the import of investment capital from abroad, from the industrialised countries.

Where can this capital come from? The classic source in the past has been private venture capital seeking profitable investment possibilities wherever they were to be found. During the 19th century vast sums were invested in this way in Latin America, in Asia and in Africa. Whatever one's opinion might be on the social and economic effects of this form of investment, the fact remains that today private capital as a major factor in the financing of development projects in underdeveloped countries hardly exists. The private investor is not a philanthropist - there is no reason why he should be - and he will only place his money in an enterprise which both guarantees his investment and provides him with a reasonably certain profit. Thus for example, a 30 million dollar overseas investment made by a British company last week was placed in the United States of America, where the need is possibly least, instead of in an underdeveloped country. This is not a criticism, it is a statement of fact, and the conclusion one draws from this fact is that in the present state of the world, private investment by and large will be directed to areas which on a social-economic basis do not need them instead of those which do. There might be some minor exceptions to this rule; such as, for example, in those countries which as a deliberate act of policy have made investment particularly attractive for the foreign private investor. But the pattern of private investment is by and large one of flow from industrialised and developed countries to other industrialised and developed countries and not to underdeveloped countries.

The next source of investment capital for major development projects is one which came to fruition after the Second World War when the great American plans for aid to the devastated countries of Europe were initiated. It would be impossible to exaggerate the vital role which this direct government financing by the United States of America has had and is having on the rehabilitation of the economies of the countries of Europe in the first place and on those of other countries as well, my own included. The generous and constructive...

generous and constructive American enterprise has since been followed, naturally on a lesser scale, by other governments and the net of this direct governmental assistance has thus been spread wider and ever wider. But this form of financing has, in some countries, certain limitations, mainly of a psychological nature. There are certain countries in which the memory of the exploitation brought on by private foreign investment in the past is still strong, and which are therefore suspicious of any form of foreign investment. Frequently recipient countries tend to feel that this direct bi-lateral aid seems in some way a diminution of national honour and sovereignty and thus the aid is either rejected, or accepted with reservations which tend to limit its value.

The third source of capital for investment in underdeveloped countries is inter-governmental financing. The one financial instrument at the disposal of the international community for large scale investment at present is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The emphasis on its title is on the second word - the word Bank. The International Bank is constitutionally unable to operate otherwise than as a bank. That is to say it must adopt relatively conservative financial practices in order to safeguard the investment of its stockholders. The Bank cannot take risks; it cannot give interest-free or very low interest loans; its loans must be made for specific projects of indisputable soundness from the economic point of view, and then only to member Nations; the Bank of course, cannot make grants. This does not mean to say that the Bank does not do a vast amount of valuable work all over the world in the field of constructive investment, but by reason of the inherent limitations of its policy, its scope must necessarily be constricted, particularly in the really underdeveloped countries which for obvious reasons cannot fulfill the conditions which these policies inevitably impose.

We are left then with the one instrument which it would seem could fulfill all the conditions which both the industrialized and the underdeveloped countries would like to see fulfilled. That is the Special Fund which at this time is merely a possibility, a hope and a dream. It is only a possibility, a hope and a dream not because it lacks majority support, because the underdeveloped countries who clamour for it unfortunately make up a majority of the peoples of the world...

of the world, and thus they also have the majority of the votes in the United Nations. However, a majority vote of the underdeveloped nations in favour of the Special Fund will not provide the fund. One must, if one can, try to persuade those who can contribute on the scale required, to do so. While the underdeveloped countries are grateful for the assistance that they have received from bilateral programmes, it is indisputable that many of them need an additional source of capital - of a nature which can only be provided from United Nations sources.

What is required is a genuine international concern, an active will, proclaiming a joint destiny and morality of the privileged and the underprivileged. But this is not a moral issue only, it is also a matter of the preservation of the underdeveloped countries as free democratic societies. They require aid to maintain and extend the area of freedom. The free man by nature resists the corrosion of tyranny, dictatorship and totalitarianism. The greater his freedom, the stronger his resistance to the diseases of the soul and of the body which makes possible the subjugation of one nation by another. Many of the privileged countries have understanding both of the process of freedom and the process of losing it. They should understand, therefore, that besides being an end in itself, the purpose of the assistance is the defense of freedom which cannot be defended by arms alone. Strong nations do not succumb to subversion, weak ones may, hungry ones surely will. It is, I submit through the channel of the United Nations instrument that this goal of fortifying and buttressing freedom by financial means can be achieved. The other methods I have described earlier have not in many areas of the world had that effect, invaluable though they have been in others.

It should be borne in mind that financial assistance to underdeveloped countries is not a one way process. It will inevitably open up new markets and vast new possibilities for the absorption of goods produced in the industrialised countries. The flow of capital to underdeveloped areas will in the long run, possibly much earlier than it is assumed, increase the supply of materials and foodstuffs the world over. The time will come, sooner or later, again possibly much sooner than it is assumed, when the industrialised nations may find out that financial and technical assistance serve as a safety valve for...

safety valve for their mature economies, diminishing sharp fluctuations in business cycles and eliminating the curse of unemployment. The improvement in the economies of the underdeveloped countries ultimately means higher results for business enterprise, higher wages, better prices for goods and services and agricultural produce, in short higher levels of well-being for all. The economies of the United States, Canada and of North Western Europe, have demonstrated that upgrading the real income of the worker and the farmer, means upgrading the economy of the whole people. The same will take place in the underdeveloped countries - if they are provided with the capital and skill to upgrade their economies - one can be assured as day follows night of an increase in the total area of production and exchange of goods and services for the whole world.

It is not, after all, very much that is asked for at this time. The Expanded Technical Assistance Programme disposes of about \$24 million a year. If one adds the \$250 million which is envisaged for the initial stage of SUNYED, the total is surely not staggering. It is much less, for example, than has been spent by the United Nations on the rehabilitation of a single country, Korea, and infinitesimal compared with the cost of the Korean war. The surest way of securing peace is to provide for the well-being of the peaceful. It is also the cheapest.

Mr. Chairman, for the past thirty years I have been associated very closely with the largest single industrial enterprise in my own country which, incidentally, is owned and controlled by the General Federation of Labour in Israel. During these thirty years I have had a unique opportunity of witnessing and indeed experiencing the adaptability of human beings, whatever their original economic condition, cultural standard and level of education to the most complicated processes of modern industry. I have seen a similar process in Burma where I have been living for the past year as the representative of my country. United Nations and Colombo Plan Technical Assistance have given that country a boost which has been guided by its honest and courageous leadership into constructive channels of development. What I have seen in Israel and in Burma have been enough to convince me that there are no limits to what a human being and a country can do given the will and with the aid of these two forces of money and skill which I mentioned earlier. A policy...

earlier. A policy of inaction would be disastrous. It is true there may be in some parts of the world idyllic areas where peasants cultivate their lands and provide a sufficiency for themselves and their families without the complications of modern economic theory and the somewhat dubious benefits of advanced society, but over the broad face of the globe, this picture so eagerly propagated by the apologists of inaction is an illusion. Two-thirds of the peoples of the world live in varying degrees of misery, destitution, hunger and ill-health and it requires a positive effort and a positive understanding to correct this blot on our civilisation. It requires a sacrifice, an individual sacrifice, on behalf of thousands of people in the privileged countries of the world. If we could only find the fire that lit men's hearts and wills in great spiritual crises in history, if we could convince the statesmen and financiers and even more important, the tax payer, that money spent on the underdeveloped countries will safeguard the freedom of the world as a whole, we would do more for the preservation of peace than all the military budgets of all nations. If we could fire the imagination of young people from the universities, of skilled technicians from the great labour unions so that they feel impelled to give a few years of their lives to their less privileged neighbours, the world will be nearer to happiness than it is now. What we need is to convert a dry exercise in economics into an active idealism, and if we succeed in doing so, the world will be a better place to live in.

* * * *

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September, 1954

Report on Israel

Back from a brief trip to Israel after a year's absence, I wish to report to you on the situation there and to convey to you the fraternal greetings of Histadrut.

I found many changes. The economy is still struggling, but progress is being made. Unions are steadily growing in strength. Israel as a whole is faced with enormous problems, but is gradually solving them, with organized labor taking the lead in shaping the country's destinies.

The one big problem troubling Israel today is security. Israelis are grappling with the vexing question, "How can the Middle East best be organized in the defense of the free world?" This is complicated by the fact that the Arab countries persist in their refusal to make peace with Israel.

Israelis are dismayed by the announced policy of the Western powers of granting arms to the Arab states. Ostensibly these arms are to be used to protect these countries from aggression from outside the Middle East, but Israelis are worried about the possibility of their being used for aggression inside the area - against Israel. This situation overshadows all other considerations. It absorbs the attention of the Government and people alike.

American labor leaders are deeply interested in these developments. You want to know what is happening in this vital and strategic area, one of the most sensitive in our troubled world. Nothing can explain the issues more affectively and give a clearer picture than an interview with Prime Minister Sharett which appeared in the U.S. News & World Report on September 17, 1954. I am therefore taking the liberty of sending you herewith a reprint of this article.

In this interview Sharett referred to Histadrut as "the passionately democratic labor movement." Replying to the question, "Are the Communists making much headway in this part of the world?" he said, "In Israel there is a tremendous bulwark of the passionately democratic labor movement against it."

In reply to another question, the Prime Minister of Israel said,

"I think it is true to say that from Gibraltar to Japan there isn't a country where democracy means so much to so high a proportion of the people as it does in Israel. One of the reasons is that in Israel we have undergone an historic evolution which has created a powerful working-class movement, militantly democratic, which grew up and consolidated its positions long before Communism became a menacing alternative."

Sharett's answers to these questions reflect what is common knowledge: that Israel is what it is today largely due to the strength and influence of its labor movement.

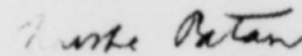
American labor leaders had a chance to discuss some of these problems with Sharett personally. Seven AFL and CIO leaders met Sharett during a trip to Israel in August. The party consisted of:

Harry Block, Vice-President, IUE, President of District Council No. 1, IUE and Secretary-Treasurer of the Pennsylvania State CIO Council;
Ray Dryer, Vice-President of the Communications Workers of America and Director of District 5 of the Communications Workers, CIO, (Chicago);
William Griffin, Chairman, National Miscellaneous Conference, International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Vice-President of the AFL Council in Seattle, Washington;
Phil Hannah, Secretary-Treasurer, Ohio State Federation of Labor, AFL;
Albert T. Lunceford, Secretary-Treasurer, Greater Los Angeles CIO Council;
Roy Siewiller, General Vice-President, International Association of Machinists, AFL (Chicago);
William Snoots, Vice-President, IUE and President of District 7, IUE, CIO (Dayton, Ohio).

We of Histadrut were glad to be able to welcome these American labor leaders in our midst.

Part of the purpose of my visit home was to report to my colleagues on the Executive Board of Histadrut on the development of trade union organizations in the U.S. Throughout Israel, interest in American trade unionism has always been strong. The activities of American labor on the international scene are especially followed with close interest.

Fraternalty yours,



Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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oelul53

... "Communists are stronger among Arabs than among Jews"

But I am afraid the United States Government is, to some extent—again judging by outward symptoms—pursuing the same policy. It is ready to woo the friendship of the Arab states, maybe not intentionally against Israel, but, in the actual result of it, to Israel's detriment.

Q What was the reaction here in Israel to the anti-Semitic purges in the satellite countries and evidence of anti-Semitism in Russia?

A There was a very violent revulsion of feeling. We condemned that trend in the strongest terms. It was our condemnation which caused a rupture of our relations with the Soviet Union. But our reaction was completely vindicated when the Soviet rulers themselves denounced the charges leveled against the Jewish physicians.

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE—

Q Are the Communists making much headway in this part of the world?

A Naturally, there is a certain amount of propaganda. There are small Communist parties—legal in Israel and illegal in Arab countries. I do not envisage any self-propelled eruption or upsurge of militant Communism in any of the neighboring Arab countries. I do not think there is that dynamism in the Arab masses now. As for Israel, which is a dynamic country, there is the tremendous bulwark of the passionately democratic labor movement against it.

Q The Communists here in Israel concentrate mainly on the Arab minorities, don't they?

A They are proportionately stronger among the Arabs than among the Jews. You have 2 Communist members of the Knesset [Israel's parliament] out of 8 Arab members, and you have 3 out of 112 Jews.

Q What's the reason for that disparity?

A The chief explanation is that Communism in Israel has always been anti-Zionist. Arabs are largely anti-Zionist, but I think the Communist influence among the Arabs is on the decline.

Q In Israel?

A Yes, in Israel. It will be very interesting to watch the next election from that viewpoint.

Q When will that be?

A About a year from now

Q Mr. Prime Minister, what is the cause of the increasing tension on Israel's frontiers with its Arab neighbors?

A You see, precarious situations very seldom stay put. They either show signs of improvement and of progress toward a normal state of affairs or they deteriorate still further. Unfortunately, in our case, the latter has been happening. If you ask me for the root reason of it, it all goes back to the persistent refusal of the Arab states to make peace with Israel and to establish or restore normal relations and peace and stability within the Middle East.

Q Do you see any danger of this deterioration leading to a renewal of hostilities?

A Not immediately, because Israel does not want war and the Arab states are not ready for it. This unstable state of things, with occasional eruptions of minor or major violence, can continue for a long time, enervating the people concerned and causing much headache to the governments. It is, of course, a terrible pity, because it is a handicap to peaceful development and progress.

But if the state of "no peace" continues while the Arab

states are armed or arming themselves and enhancing their military might, a time may come when they will feel possessed of sufficient superiority of armed strength to try again their luck with a war of invasion and aggression against Israel. I said for the time being they are not ready for it, and the memories of their defeat are still too much alive.

**Q But what about demands you hear in Israel for stronger action to force an immediate showdown with the Arah—
a military showdown?**

A. Naturally, people get impatient, but it is not the policies of Israel, certainly not of its Government, to force the issue in the military sense. Of course, we stand ready to react to any provocation, but we are not bent upon war, nor upon any expansion. Our desire is for stability and development. We hear all sorts of fantastic rumors about preparations on our part to launch a major attack. Dates are mentioned and deadlines fixed. These evil and foolish forecasts never materialize, yet they recur from time to time. They are the results of malice or sheer ignorance, or a product of morbid imagination.

Q Is this no-peace-no-war policy of the Arabs interfering with your development here in Israel?

A Of course, it is a handicap. We have to devote a considerable portion of our resources to the upkeep and constant improvement of our defense forces. In the border zone, you find settlers taxed very heavily by their watch duties. The Arab economic warfare that takes the form of boycott and blockade is causing us certain losses. We don't enjoy the markets of the neighboring countries, nor do we benefit from the nearby sources of supply. We have to bring our oil over long distances from overseas sources, instead of having it flow through the pipe line from Iraq direct to Haifa or of shipping it from the Persian Gulf via the Suez Canal. We must pay more for the oil and pay more for its transportation. But this is only one side of the picture. There are two other sides of this picture.

Q What are they?

A Well, the second side of the picture is the way all this affects the Arab countries. Financially, they lose more than we because we have always, in years gone by, been buying more from them than we used to sell them.

ISRAEL NEEDS FOOD—

Q What sorts of things?

A Particularly agricultural produce to feed our growing population, also certain raw materials. Our own food production has not in all fields kept pace with the rapid and steep increase of our population in recent years. Had the Arab countries been open to trade with Israel, they would have benefited a great deal from the expansion of our market for their agricultural produce.

You see, instead of buying meat in Iraq, we buy meat in Argentina. Instead of buying grain from Syria, we buy grain from America. The same is true of the Egyptian cotton. So, they lose customers all the time.

Take another thing: the tourist traffic. That is very much handicapped, not only for us, but also for Egypt and Syria, because of people's inability to make through bookings and co-ordinate traveling plans. If conditions were normal, there would have been a great deal of commercial intercourse between us and the Arab countries to their benefit as much as to ours.

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Interview **with ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER**

Moshe Sharett

WARNING TO THE WEST: "DON'T ARM THE ARABS"

Reprinted from "U.S. News & World Report"

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Interview

—with ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER
Moshe Sharett

WARNING TO THE WEST: "DON'T ARM THE ARABS"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Is a new war about to break out in the Holy Land between Israeli and Arab? What should the U.S. do about it? Is there any way to keep both Israel and the Arab world friendly to the West?

For Israel's views, Joseph Fromm, Regional Editor for "U.S. News & World Report," interviewed Prime Minister Moshe Sharett in Jerusalem. An Arab view was given by Egypt's Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser in the September 3 issue of this magazine. Each statesman gave his views without knowledge of the other's answers.

MOSHE SHARETT. Prime Minister of Israel, was born in Russia but moved to Palestine with his family in 1905, when he was 10 years old.

Mr. Sharett was first active in building up Jewish farms and trade-unions. Then he became a top Jewish spokesman in world diplomacy. He was named the first Foreign Minister of the new state of Israel in 1947.

This year, with the resignation of David Ben-Gurion, Mr. Sharett became Prime Minister—a key figure in diplomatic maneuvers now taking place in the uneasy Middle East.

AT JERUSALEM

Q Mr. Prime Minister, since arriving in Israel, I have heard constant denunciation of the American plan to supply arms aid to Iraq. What's the reason for the tempest?

A If the Arab states realize, as they are now in the process of doing, that peace or no peace, they can get arms, why should they make peace? The giving of arms to Arab states which refuse to make peace becomes a premium upon their policy of permanent warfare against Israel. The arms themselves enhance their capacity for mischief. That is certainly not a step in the direction of peace. It is a step away from peace.

Q If we don't provide arms to the Arab states, how do we build up Middle East defense against Russia?

A There is, first of all, the question of whether the Arab states can at all be relied upon to play an effective part in any war on the side of the Western powers or, for that matter, on the side of anyone.

The Arab states have a time-honored tradition of sitting on the fence. They did very little to fight Turkey in the first World War, although they achieved their independence as a result of it. It was just a wallflower to them. They did nothing to help the Allies in the second World War. They firmly sat on the fence and jumped off the fence only at the very last moment when Germany lay prostrate and fatally bleeding. They formally declared war just to be able to answer in the spoils or to figure as permanent members of the United Nations. But during the war, so far as they were active, they were active by rebellion in the rear, as far as they took initiative, it was to stab the Allies in the back. They did that in Iran and in Egypt.

You see, their reasoning is fairly simple. They say, "There are two sides to the conflict—one must be strong, and the other weak. The strong party does not need our help; the weak party does not deserve our help. It is only at the very end

of the conflict that we can ascertain which party is stronger and which weaker. Therefore, let us hide our tune..." There is no democratic idealism whatsoever throughout these countries. Democracy is not something that they would feel so precious as to be worth fighting for.

So, from the point of view of defending democracy, I think the Western powers should be warned against squandering their resources on the arming of Arab states.

Q What's the alternative?

A On that, opinions may differ. But as far as Israel is concerned, there is a more crucial point, and that is that arms given to Arab states are arms directed against Israel—potentially today, actually tomorrow or the day after. So, we watch with profound dismay and mounting anxiety the policy of the American Government to arm the Arab states—Iraq today, Egypt maybe tomorrow, and Syria the day after tomorrow.

This creates an armed preponderance in the Middle East which is violently hostile to us. It forces us to increase our armaments by land or by air, to devote even a larger share of our meager resources to self-defense, leaving all the time that American potentially to provide arms will exceed our capacity for having them in such markets as are open to us. We therefore, foresee a state of very grave peril for our security if this goes on.

We are at a loss to understand how the U.S. can reconcile that policy with her avowed policy and concern to see Israel prosperous and secure.

Q Mr. Prime Minister, I've also heard considerable opposition here to the Anglo-Egyptian agreement for withdrawal of British troops from the Suez. How does that concern Israel?

A I think we are justified in feeling apprehensive because, first of all, the accord as such is bound to strengthen Egypt enormously, both politically and strategically. We have always said that we do not want to stand in the way of the attainment

Use of Guns Against Israel, Not Reds, Is Forecast . . . Why Border Tensions Rise . . . Soviets Wooing Arabs

by Egypt of the fulfillment of her legitimate national aspirations, provided that consummation does not encourage aggression against us. To see a peaceful Egypt come into its own is one thing. To contemplate an Egypt pledged to a state of war against Israel achieve greater strength with which to pursue it is quite another.

The whole issue depends upon whether the occupation of the Suez base by Egypt will generate more peaceful counsels within its ruling group, or whether it will entice them to embark upon a new aggressive adventure. That is the whole point. And the danger to Israel and to Middle Eastern peace of Egypt's aggressive orientation will become even greater if the accord with Britain is followed by an American policy of supplying arms to Egypt.

Q Couldn't the danger to Israel of American arms aid to the Arab states be offset by a corollary program of arms aid for Israel?

A The question is whether it would be corollary.

Q Not necessarily gun for gun, but enough to preserve a safe balance of power between the Arabs and Israel—

A I think it would be safer if no arms were given to Egypt.

Q And Iraq?

A No arms to Egypt or Iraq, even if it means no arms to Israel. It would be much safer.

Q But, Mr. Prime Minister, can the United States postpone any program of military aid or build-up of defenses in the Middle East until there is a settlement between the Arabs and Israel—a settlement which, you concede, may be indefinitely delayed?

A I did not suggest that I simply do not see what America is gaining by arming the Arab states for the sake of her defenses in the Middle East, because I do not think the Arab states can be relied upon to use those arms in the defense of America—or democracy. They have no democracy and, therefore, no interest to defend it.

Q Perhaps it's necessary for America to take a calculated risk in this matter—

A A calculated risk is pursued, perhaps, when there is no past experience to prove that it is not justified. But we have a considerable experience to go upon. We know exactly how the Arab states behaved on such occasions in the past.

Q What is the prospect of the Turkish Pakistan pact if we do not bring countries like Iraq and Syria into it?

A I don't see the practicality of bringing them in—that's all. I don't see the advantage in inclusion of it. I don't think it is wise to void the reported pact. I think it will end in a fiasco. Arms given to states inherently unstable will not make for consolidation but serve to intensify internal strife



MOSHE SHARETT

and conflict. The arms will not help to defend the Middle East against outside aggression. They will undermine peace inside the region. For Israel they spell a grave peril.

Q You contend, Mr. Prime Minister, that we could not count on the Arabs to be on the side of the West in the event of war. Could we count on Israel?

A It is not so much the question of your counting on Israel. The main point is that Israel counts on herself—if possible, with your help. Democracy means to Israel as much as it means to you. It is our precious asset and a deeply rooted tradition. It represents a set of social and spiritual values which are an organic part of Jewish civilization. And what is most important to point out is that with us democracy is the very breath of the social and political life of the common man.

I think it is true to say that from Gibraltar to Japan there isn't a country where democracy means so much to so high a proportion of the people as it does in Israel. One of the reasons is that in Israel we have undergone an historic evolution which has created a powerful working-class movement, militantly democratic, which grew up and consolidated its positions long before Communism became a menacing alternative.

Q In that case, why isn't there more active collaboration between Israel and the United States on the problems of security?

A I believe that question should be put to the United States.

Q Israel, then, is ready to enter into alliance with the United States to strengthen the defense of the Middle East?

A Israel has repeatedly declared her readiness to do her share in the defense of democracy—of her own democracy and of democracy generally. Israel stands by that declaration. It is for the United States to say whether she wants an alliance with Israel. We want to be friends with the United States and we do not want to cause them embarrassment.

Q In your opinion, what is the Russian game in the Middle East right now?

A I am not in the confidence of the Soviet Government. I can only judge by the outward symptoms of Soviet policy. You know that of late they have very nearly paralyzed the United Nations Security Council in Middle Eastern affairs by the use of the veto. The use of the veto had a very clear purpose and that was to court the friendship of the Arab states, at the expense of Israel, if need be.

(Continued on next page)

Interview

... "The Arabs' 'antipeace' attitude should be unmasked"

I would like to make one more point on this matter of resettlement of the refugees. For the time being, what is being discussed is resettlement in the Jordan Valley. It is not an ideal place. The soil in the southern part of the Valley is poor and saline. We are not against as many people being resettled there as is possible, but unless the much wider, more fertile, and climatically much easier areas of Northern Syria and Iraq are made available, we do not think that any large-scale resettlement of Arab refugees could be envisaged.

Q But isn't this merely a first step?

A Precisely, and as a first step we welcome it. We would only like to warn against the illusion that by taking hold of the Jordan Valley you can solve the entire problem.

"FIX RESPONSIBILITY"—

Q What other steps could be taken to reduce tension?

A Another step, and a most important one, would be fixing responsibility for whatever sin is committed—not letting people get away with their violations of the armistice agreement and with their refusal to make peace. The point is that what the Arabs are trying to achieve is to oppose peace and, at the same time, to escape all blame for it. That is where the responsibility of the great powers again comes into the play.

The Arabs' "antipeace" attitude should be unmasked and condemned, not condoned and pandered to. They should know that if they take up their stand on the policy of no peace, they will incur the odium of world opinion for it and not get away with that obstructionist and negative policy.

The crux of the problem is that while Israel views the armistice agreements as a bridge to peace, the Arab states try to use them as a cover from behind which they can carry on their warfare against Israel by all possible means short of a full-scale war.

Q What about the U.N. Truce Supervision machinery, Mr. Prime Minister? Do you feel that it is adequate to deal with the trouble?

A I say it with a feeling of very deep regret and disappointment, but I must record the fact that it has proved inadequate.

Q Inadequate in what way?

A We have never hoped that the U.N. Truce Supervision machinery would be able physically to prevent violations of the armistice, but we had hoped that at least it would be able to determine responsibility. I revert to this point of fixing responsibility, which is most essential—identifying and naming the aggressor, which is a starting point for any international effort against aggression. It is precisely in that fact that the U.N. Truce Supervision machinery has of late failed so lamentably.

Q What instances can you give of this alleged failure?

A Take the case of the sudden outbreak of firing from the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem against the peaceful inhabitants of the New City. This occurred on the 30th of June. Indiscriminate firing suddenly started from the wall from its various sectors, into the fairly thickly inhabited quarters and at passers-by in the streets of the New City, which is Israel's capital. We held our fire for some time, but then, as firing from the other side did not stop, we had to react, and we reacted at places fairly sharply. The matter came before the Truce Supervision Organization—the Mixed Armistice Commission—and the main point that had to be decided was: Who started it? The very identification of the

guilty party would be its moral punishment and a warning against repetition of such a wanton outrage.

After days and days of painstaking investigation, at which, I am sure, the U.N. observers did their honest duty, the chairman declared himself unable to arrive at a definite conclusion as to which side was to blame.

Now, just imagine that this had been the verdict of the United Nations in Korea. Fighting has broken out. It is impossible to tell who says the truth and who lies. The South says the North started it, the North says the South started it. The U.N. is faced with conflicting evidence and it cannot come to a definite conclusion. What would be the fate of world peace and stability if aggression in Korea would not have been reacted to in the way that it was? That is exactly the situation, only on a smaller scale.

Q Would a new form of U.N. supervision be more effective? One plan that you have mentioned frequently would have a fence on the border, with U.N. troops patrolling it.

A I have never heard about any U.N. troops. I am not aware of the existence of such species.

Q We had them in Korea—

A In the sense of governments providing troops.

Q Governments could provide a small force to patrol a frontier fence, couldn't they?

A We are all in favor of a fence or a series of physical obstacles along the frontiers, provided both sides will undertake to keep them intact and use them as a barrier and not as a jumping board for an attack. You see the point?

Suppose Jordan and Israel would get together—or would be brought together by the United Nations—and this plan would be put forth, Israel would say "Yes," and Jordan would say "Yes." A plan would be worked out. A fence, or bits of it, would be erected at certain vulnerable points and both sides would solemnly undertake to watch over them and see that they are not taken to pieces or used as cover for an attack. I think there is merit in it.

The same thing could be arranged between Egypt and Israel along the border of the Gaza strip. But as for a U.N. force, we don't fancy it. It's not practicable.

"ARABS CONDONE ATTACKS"—

Q As I understand it, much of the border tension is caused by Arab infiltrators crossing the border into Israel. Do you believe that this infiltration is organized by the Arab governments or encouraged by them?

A It is certainly condoned by them. In cases where the Arab Legion opens fire, the responsibility of the Jordan Government is more pronounced and direct. In cases where there is infiltration by anonymous people, the responsibility is still there because under the terms of the armistice agreement each government is responsible for acts of violence and for illegal crossings of the line on the part of its nationals. So, even in those cases, the responsibility of the Jordan Government, or of any other Arab government concerned, is unmistakable.

Q But there also has been a good deal of criticism of Israel's method of dealing with infiltration by retaliating against Arab villages in areas where infiltration is heavy?

A I don't think that criticism has included the charge that Israel has started the practice of infiltration, or that it has ever without any provocation sent people across the border. (Continued on page 70)

Interview

... "Nobody would start firing on our side just for pleasure"

to rob and kill, or that it has in any other form taken the initiative of suddenly kindling the fires of aggression in an atmosphere of complete calm and serenity.

Q What is the purpose of these retaliation attacks by Israel?

A It is a natural reaction to aggressive violence of people brutally attacked so that the other side should realize that Israel is not there sitting with its arms folded to be assaulted by anyone with impunity.

Q Do you find that retaliation tends to improve security in areas where heavy infiltration has occurred?

A My experience is not direct and personal, but it stands to reason that it is only that kind of occasional reaction that makes the government of the other side alive to its responsibilities and leads them to make efforts to take the situation in the border zone firmly in hand.

HOW TO GET PEACE—

Q On the other side—I have been traveling recently in the Arab countries—you hear that there is no hope for peace until these attacks across the frontier cease—

A Then let them stop their unprovoked attacks. The moment they put an end to that mischief, the moment they take firm action, complete calm would be restored and prevail thereafter. Nobody would start firing on our side just for the pleasure of firing.

Q If the Arabs were willing to discuss a peace settlement, what would be Israel's terms?

A We have said times out of number that peace with Israel can only be peace with Israel as it is—not as somebody would want it to be, not with an imaginary Israel, but with a real Israel, Israel within its present boundaries, Israel with its present population.

Q In short, no fundamental territorial changes or repatriation of refugees?

A Precisely.

Q What about the question of Jerusalem—how would you handle that in a peace settlement?

A Jerusalem would have to stay as it is. I think it is the simplest and most hopeful approach to the problem of peace that it should be on the basis of *status quo*. There may be some slight mutual adjustments and some further mutual concussions in the fields of commerce, communications and what not, but as to territory and sovereignty, and as to population, there should be no tampering with maps existing facts. That applies also to Jerusalem. The city has been divided. We don't know when and in what form its unity will ever be re-established. It is no use speculating about the distant future. Peace in our time can only be attained by accepting the facts.

Q And you can envisage peace with a divided Jerusalem?

A Most certainly. To postpone peace on the presumption that one day Jerusalem will be united means putting off peace till God knows when.

Q What about the holy places of Jerusalem?

A The most important of the holy places are concentrated in the Old City, as you may be aware, and there they are tripartite—Muslim, Christian and Jewish. It is a paradoxical situation that hardly any Jewish holy place exists in Israel, whereas the two or three chief shrines of Judaism are all within Arab-occupied territory—the Wailing Wall, the Tomb of Rachel, the Cave of Machpelah, where our patriarchs are

believed to be buried, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with their wives.

Inasmuch as there is a problem of holy places, and if the international community wants to exercise its supervision, we are willing to co-operate on that basis. Naturally, we claim all along our right of access to our own holy shrines in the Old City and in the rest of Jordan territory for visit and worship.

Actually, the Jordan Government is under a solemn obligation, by virtue of the armistice agreement, to give us that access. It is one of the provisions of Article VIII, which they have repudiated in its totality. That is one of our constant indictments against the Jordan Government for having violated that article, and against the world powers for having tolerated that violation without condemning it.

Q Mr. Prime Minister, what are the main problems you face as you go into your seventh year as a nation?

A There are two major problems. On the outside, it is peace with the Arab states. On the inside, it is the attainment of complete economic stability, of a balanced economy. We are progressing toward it, but we still have difficulties to overcome.

Q Since 1948, when Israel was established as a state, you have admitted, I understand, more than 715,000 immigrants. Have all of these been absorbed?

A The question is how you define "being absorbed." If you mean that not one of them has been left for one single day breadless, that not one family has been left without a roof over its head, that not a single child has been left without schooling and no seriously sick person without medical help, and that, by and large, they are employed—then you may say that they have been absorbed.

If, on the other hand, you mean by absorption that they are all employed productively, accommodated in permanent dwellings, and are fully self-supporting—then they have not yet been fully absorbed. There is a great deal of effort and capital and initiative needed to make them productive and fully self-supporting. That is the whole meaning and purpose of the effort in which we are engaged—speeding up production in all fields, discovering and putting to good use new water sources, unearthing minerals, creating new industries, looking for oil, and so on.

ISRAEL'S FUTURE—

Q What do you see as the outlook for the future for Israel?

A The outlook is one of a hard working, modestly living, cultured democracy, making the best of its human and natural resources by a persistent pioneering effort, advanced education, improved technology and painstaking scientific research—learning from the experience of other nations and putting its lessons to the best possible use. It is our basic purpose to foster the ties of brotherhood with the Jewish communities of the world. We rely on their assistance and spiritual attachment and we hope to contribute to the enrichment of their cultural life.

It is our ambition eventually to establish relations of good neighborliness and peaceful collaboration with the Arab states, with whom we are ready to pool efforts, aimed at material and social progress, for the benefit of the entire region. It is no dream, we do not propose to divert ourselves of our universal tradition. We are a people with world aspirations and we must strive to maintain and deserve that historic status.

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Interview

... "I do not see the possibility of an early settlement"

Take Jordan as a case in point. It is a landlocked state. They have got just one narrow outlet to the sea, and that is the Red Sea, but they have no port there. We would have been ready to grant them free port facilities in Haifa, and that would have been much more convenient for them.

Q Would you still be willing to grant Jordan free port facilities at Haifa as part of a general peace settlement?

A Definitely. As soon as they would stop the boycott and open their country to trade with Israel.

Q Even short of a formal peace settlement?

A That's right. As soon as they stop their economic warfare and establish relations of economic reciprocity—not by way of an unrequited present from us, of course. Now they use the port of Beirut, which is far off and forces them to resort to a roundabout route.

ISRAELIS GROW STRONGER—

Q You said there were two other sides to that picture of the effects of the Arabs' no-war-no-peace policy. What's the third side, Mr. Prime Minister?

A Now, what you have called the "third side" of the picture is the way we react to this challenge. It is the test of the health of a system—whether it succumbs when hit, or whether it resists and overcomes the threat. If it is healthy enough to overcome the danger, it gets stronger in the process. It emerges stronger from that trial than it was before, and that is, I think, exactly what is happening in our case.

Q You mean, in the long run, the Arabs' policy may make Israel stronger rather than weaker?

A Precisely. Don't you see, faced with this attempt to strangle us economically, we have had to exert ourselves to the utmost to attain the maximum degree of economic independence, to intensify our drive for self-sufficiency in food, also to foster economic and trade relations with countries farther afield. When we found the nearby markets closed to our industrial products, we had to look for markets elsewhere. We now export goods to Scandinavian countries, Finland, a great deal to Turkey, also to France. It is exactly this state of economic blockade to which we have been subjected that has provided an impetus for the expansion of our export trade and for the successful quest of more distant markets.

Q Haven't you also been compelled to build your own merchant fleet as a result of the blockade?

A Exactly. We had very rapidly to develop our merchant fleet so as not to depend on the ships of countries which might be bullied by Arab threats into avoiding our ports. So, we have built up a merchant marine which is quite sizable for a country of our dimensions.

In 1949, we had a total tonnage of 6,000 tons; today, we have over 120,000 tons. It is an increase of twentyfold, and I think we have a larger merchant fleet than the combined fleets of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, to say nothing of Jordan.

Q Mr. Prime Minister, do you see a possibility that these economic consequences of the blockade—the adverse consequences to the Arab states, that is—may in time induce them to make peace?

A We think that in the end, sooner or later, the long-term economic interests of all these countries are bound to prevail. There will be a pulling down of barriers, kept up only by political prejudice, and a triumph of social and economic interests—the day-to-day interests of the masses of people, who are anxious to raise their standards of living and to earn their

bread in greater comfort. I say sooner or later that logic, which is inexorable, is bound to prevail. We shall then have the benefit of direct intercourse with the neighboring countries, but we shall by that time have built up positions and relations of trade with more-distant climes, which, we hope, will always remain ours. At the end of the process, we shall have won and not lost by the blockade. Of course, this is no reason for wishing it to continue.

Q What, in your opinion, are the prospects of an early peace settlement—an over-all settlement?

A I do not see the possibility of a complete settlement at an early stage. I do see some possible progress toward it, but that depends a great deal—maybe to a decisive extent—on the major world powers, and particularly on the United States.

Q How does the United States come into it?

A First, the most profitable direction in which progress could be made is the resettlement of the Arab refugees. In that, the United States could use its capacity for economic aid to encourage and foster projects for their permanent absorption and integration.

Q But America has tried to do that for several years. We've offered to contribute a considerable amount of money to a United Nations fund to settle refugees, but the Arab states have so far refused to permit resettlement—

A I think there has been some unfreezing of that attitude.

USING WATERS OF JORDAN—

Q Do you consider the Eric Johnston plan for developing the waters of the Jordan Valley as a step in that direction?

A Definitely. I would not associate myself with the Johnston Plan in all its features, but I would say that the Johnston mission was certainly a step in the right direction. I also think Mr. Eric Johnston as an individual is the right man for the mission, if I may say so, judging from my experience with him.

The idea of negotiating by American mediation an all-round water settlement is eminently sound, both for its own sake—that is, for the sake of the water settlement—and as a means of getting the parties concerned to realize that they can only achieve something worth while if they pull together and not apart. So, from both those standpoints it is the right approach.

Q Is Israel ready to accept the basic proposals Mr. Johnston has submitted for utilizing the Jordan River?

A As far as we are concerned, everything depends on the details of the actual plan. That means primarily on the allocation of the waters. If water is going to be used as a political bribe, no agreement will be possible. But if the water will be allocated on the principle of how much water each state actually needs and how much water it can put to beneficial use, that is another thing.

Q That's a tricky question to decide. Who's to make the decision?

A It is a matter of give and take. As things stand at present, Mr. Johnston goes around and consults each party. Let us hope that in the end he will sort of hammer out something which may prove acceptable to all parties. To Israel, water for irrigation is of paramount importance. There isn't a country in the area to which water is so vital as it is to Israel. We must, therefore, insist on our due share. Our whole future depends on it.

(Continued on page 68)

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ANNE WATKINS, BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS-

100 INDIANA AVE WASHDC-

DID NOT REACH BILL GIFFIN WHO LEFT NEW YORK. IF HE IS
IN WASHINGTON PLEASE ASK HIM TO CALL ME OR GIVE ME
HIS TELEPHONE NUMBER THANKS REGARDS-

MOSHE BITAN- JUN 2 PM 2 11

FAX

*Phoned:
Regent 4-6010*

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

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1270 (1-51)

June, 1954

Building Workers: Trade Union and Cooperative Enterprise

Israel's National Union of Building Workers was founded in 1946, after a long period during which a number of separate local unions worked through local labor councils. Its membership rose from 6,000 to 25,000, now embracing about 85 per cent of the building workers in Israel.

The union represents a wide variety of trades and occupations, ranging from excavators, foundation drillers, stone-dressers, iron-benders, bricklayers, plasterers, tile-layers, asphalt workers, concrete-mixer operators, road-workers and surfacers to painters, foremen, building material workers, quarry workers and common laborers.

The national union has succeeded during its short period of existence in introducing a number of important improvements in the working conditions of its members. The building workers' convention in 1946 adopted a standard daily wage throughout the country, with no difference between urban and rural wages. In 1948, when the cost-of-living index rose steadily as a result of mass immigration, it was decided to link building workers' wages to the general cost-of-living index. Approximately half of the building workers are on a daily wage basis and half are on piecework. While it was comparatively simple to win satisfactory wage conditions, it was rather more difficult to settle the problem of social benefits.

Building Workers' Insurance Fund

Because of the casual and temporary nature of their work, building workers were always at a disadvantage as compared with other workers. They seldom work long enough with a single employer or building contractor to become eligible for such social benefits as annual leave, paid holidays, provident funds, etc. The union therefore took the initiative in establishing a Building Workers' Insurance Fund made up of contributions from workers and employers. Out of this fund, administered by the union, the workers now receive social benefits not inferior to permanent workers in other trades and occupations. Like other members of Histadrut, they are covered by the health services of the Workers' Sick Fund. The Building Workers' Insurance Fund also contributes a part of rest home expenses during annual leave, makes maternity grants to members' wives, and offers loans for housing and other purposes. The employer pays 20 per cent of the payroll (2 per cent sick benefits, 1 per cent accident benefits, 3 per cent contribution to workers' Sick Fund, 4½ per cent vacations, 3 per cent Provident Fund, 3 per cent severance pay, 3½ per cent paid holidays) and the worker 3½ per cent (3 per cent Provident Fund, ½ per cent vacations) of his wages toward the social benefits.

Vocational Training

Another interesting feature of the union's activities is the vocational training program it has initiated for its members. Faced with the urgent task of constructing homes for the many thousands of immigrants who had come into the country, after the establishment of the State of Israel, the union (with the financial help of the Ministry of Labor) introduced 15,000 workers into the industry by a system of on-the-job training. Trainees were organized in teams, headed by an experienced worker who acted as an instructor. These teams were then engaged in building housing projects during which the men learned the trade. This system proved very successful and many housing projects were built entirely by these trainees. Today the union is engaged in organizing advanced courses for these new workers in order to help them gain higher grades and attain a higher standard of living.

In the last two years, the building industry has had some unemployment. To encourage building activities, the union has placed considerable sums of money from its insurance and provident funds at the disposal of Histadrut for loans to builders. It is also taking an active part in the movement launched by Histadrut to transfer unemployed workers from the towns to the countryside for agricultural settlement.

Cooperative Contracting Company

Most fascinating is the story of how the building workers, through their union, fought unemployment in their own trade before the State of Israel was born. Living under the administration of the British Mandate, which was not too friendly to the country's aspirations of development, the building workers decided to provide jobs for themselves through a cooperative contracting society. Incidentally, Swedish building workers acted similarly and established a cooperative building society of their own. In 1924 "Solel Boneh," a contracting company, was created for and by the labor unions. In 1927 this company failed, mainly because it granted credit too generously. But the men who founded the first Solel Boneh did not give up hope. At their insistence Histadrut in 1934 decided to try again, and the present Solel Boneh was founded.

Lessons had been learned from the first failure. The leaders were determined that this time they would be less generous with credit. They had a nucleus of highly trained workers, engineers and administrative personnel, with an accumulated experience of many years in building. Since that time Solel Boneh has grown steadily and now encompasses 186 enterprises employing some 35,000 workers. The financial assets of Solel Boneh have grown considerably, mainly due to the fact that its annual profits are not divided among share-holders but rather "plowed back" into the firm, in the form of new investments. The men who manage Solel Boneh do not receive salaries of big business executives but rather modest salaries of trade union officials.

Solel Boneh played its part in the war-effort during World War II. Histadrut members worked throughout the Middle East building airfields, army barracks, harbor facilities and other installations needed to defeat the Axis powers. Today, Solel Boneh carries on that tradition. It is now working with American

companies in Turkey building airfields for the free world.

The 186 Solel Boneh enterprises include 42 factories, 40 plants affiliated to a Stone and Lime Company operating quarries, shipyards, construction firms and others. A number of these companies were formed and developed solely by Solel Boneh, while others were established in partnership with private capital, Israeli or foreign. The firm is also a partner in three foreign contracting firms in Cyprus, Turkey and Finland.

Solel Boneh is particularly proud of its basic industries organized along modern lines, like: Phoenicia Glass Workers at Haifa; Yuval Gad Steel and Concrete Pipe Factory at Migdal Ascalon; Alliance Tire Factory at Hadera (in cooperation with American investors); Sultan Metal Works; Middle East Tube Company, manufacturers of steel irrigation pipes; Nesher Cement with plants at Haifa and Ramle; Israeli-Argul Works, structural steel plant at Acre; Motor and Electrical Equipment plant; Ceramics plant manufacturing sanitary porcelainware, floor tiles, etc.; Hamet metal works, as well as a smelting plant and a seamless steel pipe plant in Israel's "Little Pittsburgh," at Acre in the north.

While the business form of Solel Boneh may prove to be strange to American trade unionists, its initiative and inventiveness will not. Through Solel Boneh, Israel trade unionists have forged another weapon in free labor's constant battle for security and higher living standards.

Workers' Housing

One of the immediate and direct advantages which union members gained from these economic activities was inexpensive housing. Through its housing company Histadrut has so far enabled some 30,000 families to build inexpensive houses and apartments throughout the country. Many workers' suburbs have been erected. Since 1950, about 10,000 units consisting of 3½ rooms each have been sold to union members for 1,500 Israeli pounds. Union members received long-term mortgages from the Government for this purpose. Incidentally, these inexpensive housing projects were also instrumental in reducing the cost of housing in the open market by forcing private contractors, through free competition, to calculate on a basis of reasonable profits. Thus the entire population of Israel has indirectly profited from labor's economic activities.

Fraternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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VOLUME TWO - NUMBER FIVE

May, 1954

The labor movement of Israel celebrates two holidays during the month of May — Labor Day on May First, and the national Independence Day, which this year was observed on May 6th. In Israel there is a special reason why organized labor can celebrate both these occasions, not in narrow confines, but in the wide open spaces as the central participant. Histadrut represents the majority of the total population and the Labor Party heads the coalition Government. The young nation rests upon the shoulders of organized labor — a fact clearly understood by the man in the street.

This issue of the Newsletter presents a brief account of how these two holidays were observed in Israel in 1954:

Israel Celebrates Its Sixth Anniversary

The correspondent of the New York Times reported about Israel's Fourth of July, its Independence Day:

From Dan to Beersheba and from Acre to Eilat the blue and white flag of independence was flying today. This was the sixth annual observance of the deeply held feeling of the people of Israel — that every day in this state is independence day.

"I at last have a country," said an Israeli to an American on the way to one of today's celebrations. "You know what that means. You have a country. It is right for every man to have a country he can call his own." This fervently espoused national pride was not merely the dominant theme of the anniversary. It was the source of Israel's great achievements of the last year and of the previous five years...

The irrigated area of farmlands was increased from 550,000 dunams (a dunam is approximately a quarter of an acre) a year ago to about 700,000 dunams. This year's harvest undoubtedly will be larger than last year's. Throughout the fertile areas of the Sharon and Philistine Plains, new citrus plantations were to be seen. Along many roads and on the mountain sides groves of young trees were beginning to shade previously desolate places.

New industrial plants stood by the road in quite a few places. The number of people employed in industry, the amount of electricity used for industrial production and the value of what was manufactured all rose during the last year. The consequence of the year's work in agriculture and industry was twofold. Goods were somewhat more plenti-

ful in the shops. And Israel's exports reached a value of \$59,600,000, compared with \$45,400,000 in the previous year. This gain in exports brought about a small but hopeful change in Israel's international trade balance. The value of exports amounted to only 20.8 per cent of imports. But in the previous year, the percentage was 14.6 per cent...

The major feature of the Independence Day celebrations was a big military parade held in Ramle, a town between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. About 100,000 people from all parts of Israel came to watch the parade. Ramle itself is a symbol of Israel's resurrection. Every one of its 20,000 inhabitants is a new immigrant who arrived in Israel during the last six years.

Labor Day Celebrations In Israel

Israeli trade unionists celebrate Labor Day on May 1, as do so many other labor movements, particularly in Europe. Both AFL and CIO sent messages of greetings to trade unions in foreign countries for these celebrations. As in other countries, too, Israel's May Day observances have in recent years become the occasion for demonstrating Histadrut's orientation toward the principles of freedom and democracy. Israel's tiny Communist Party has been excluded from these demonstrations to prevent it from distracting attention from the real beliefs and opinions of the vast majority of Israel's workers.

In Tel Aviv, over 10,000 workers attended an evening rally which was addressed by local Histadrut leaders. In Haifa, thousands of workers and youth marched in the May Day parade. In Jerusalem, a mass meeting was attended by Israel's President and Mrs. Ben Zvi (both veteran Histadrut members) and was addressed by a representative of a Burmese workers' delegation now visiting Israel. Arab workers marched together with Jewish workers in Haifa, Acre, Nazareth and Ramle. Rallies of Arab workers gave prominence to the fact that Arab workers have joined Histadrut trade unions in the past year. Speakers praised the achievements of the Arab worker in the past year and the aid given him by Histadrut and the Ministries of Labor and Agriculture.

At Shfar Am, the celebrations were marked by distribution of trade union cards to Arab workers. Mr. Salah Safadi, an Arab trade unionist, told a meeting in Nazareth: "We want to become a responsible element in the endeavor to implement the aims of Histadrut."

Pride in Histadrut's positive achievement was expressed by Mordecai Namir, General Secretary of Histadrut, in a broadcast over "Kol Yisrael," the Israel broadcasting system. Brother Namir described the "unique power" which is embodied in Histadrut as "a power which is increasingly at work and which raises the Histadrut to be the central instrument of economic and social progress, of national upbuilding and of unification of the diverse immigrant groups."

Mrs. Golda Myerson, Israel's Minister of Labor and Histadrut leader, made a radio broadcast in which she described the labor movement in Israel as one which has indeed learned from labor throughout the world, but was never given to blind imitation, a fact which "has enabled it to become a movement for the upbuilding of the State and of the nation." The Minister also dwelled on the close cooperation

between the Government and the Histadrut in various fields: vocational training for workers, youth education, the extension of labor legislation, and above all the newly enacted social security law.

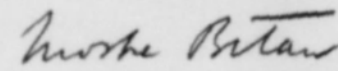
In a special May Day message issued by the Executive Bureau of Histadrut, the workers of Israel were called upon to renew their efforts in "the struggle for a healthier economy, for the expansion of the country's own sources of livelihood, for the achievement of economic independence, and for preparedness in the face of the dangers which confront the country in the security field." They were also asked to reaffirm "their faith in the labor movement's vision of peace and security, of human freedom and liberty — of a world free from hunger and war, from misery and fear."

The message welcomed the strengthening of Histadrut's bonds with the world's free labor movements which followed its joining the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Special greetings were sent to the thousands of Arab workers who are now members of its trade unions and mutual aid institutions. Histadrut pledged its determination to "maintain forever their equal rights within our midst."

The message concluded by declaring that on this day "the working community of Israel demonstrates its faith in its mission, its confidence in its way and its faithful striving for the brotherhood of man."

Fraternaly yours,



Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Maavidim)
EXECUTIVE BOARD
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

התאחדות הכללית של העובדים העבריים בארץ ישראל
הוועד המועל
נציגות אמריקאית

HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
Tel.: REgent 4-6010

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE
Histadrut
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X

March 22, 1954

Mr. David Beck, President
Brotherhood of Teamsters
100 Indiana Ave., NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brother Beck:

I thought you might be interested to read the enclosed material published by various sources on the tension in the Middle East.

Fraternaly yours,

Moshe Bitan
Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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Egypt's Blockade Practices In The Suez Canal and The Gulf of Aqaba



By **ABBA EBAN**

*Ambassador of Israel to the United States and
Permanent Representative to the United Nations*

ISRAEL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

EGYPT'S BLOCKADE PRACTICES IN THE
SUEZ CANAL AND THE GULF
OF AQABA

The Government of Israel now returns to the Security Council to seek the immediate cessation by Egypt of hostile practices which violate the general principles of international law, the purposes of the United Nations Charter, the specific provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli General Armistice Agreement, and the decision of the Security Council adopted in this very case on September 1, 1951.

My delegation has noted with satisfaction that the Security Council has decided to discuss this Israel complaint as an independent subject at meetings of the Council devoted to that subject alone. For indeed the question before us opens up wider perspectives than those which usually arise in discussions of armistice disputes. The freedom of the seas, fidelity to international conventions, the legal and political integrity of the Egyptian-Israeli Armistice Agreement, the sovereign rights of maritime nations to trade freely between and upon the high seas, the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations, the authority of the Security Council in matters affecting international peace and security—all these grave issues will be affected by the Security Council's action in this question of crucial importance for the Middle East and for the United Nations.

Above all, the Security Council faces a decisive test of its authority. Never before has one of its decisions, overwhelmingly sustained by the world community, come back to its table after the passage of years without any progress having been made, either towards compliance or towards an effort of enforcement. The situation before us is therefore more acute than that which engaged the Security Council's anxious concern in the summer of 1951. An armistice violation which had then been in force for two and a half years has now remained without redress for five years since

the signature of the Agreement. The restrictions denounced by the Security Council in 1951 have not only been maintained, but defiantly extended. The losses and dangers inflicted without justice or law upon my country and others have grown to the proportions of a major international outrage. The rebellion is now not only against the Armistice Agreement and the earnest requests of the United Nations Chief of Staff, but also against the Security Council itself. Since my Government, after an unusual exercise of patience, has decided no longer to acquiesce in the arbitrary violation of its right, we have clearly reached a turning point in the security of our region.

The conflict on free navigation at Suez is between Egypt on the one hand, and the opinion of mankind on the other. The issue is drawn between progress towards peace and the frank exercise of alleged "rights of war." The debates and the decisions of the Security Council in these coming days cannot fail to lead us in one direction or another. Will Egypt accept the international verdict in favor of non-belligerency and the abstention from hostile acts? Or must Israel and other countries adapt themselves to the Egyptian theory of an active state of war, and draw all the conclusions which a policy of war imposes upon governments against whom it is directed?

Seven of the present members of the Security Council participated in the discussions held on this subject in 1951. Three of the other four members of the Council have a specially intimate concern in their national capacity for the maintenance of free navigation in international waterways. I shall say nothing to add to Dr. Malik's dilemma, except to confess a frank curiosity in how he intends to resolve it, and to recall his frequent advocacy of the Security Council's duty to require the meticulous observance of the Armistice Agreement -- and of Security Council decisions on those agreements.

ORIGINS OF THE EGYPTIAN RESTRICTIONS

With such a wealth of varied experience assembled around this table, upon which lies a resolution which the Security Council has already adopted, it might seem unnecessary to summarize the previous phases of this question, or to argue points which the Security Council has decisively resolved. I understand, however, that it is the desire of many representatives, as it is the right of

world opinion, to have their memory revived concerning the history of this important international question.

When the Mandate for Palestine ended on May 14, 1948, Egypt, together with other Arab governments, openly undertook armed intervention against the newly established State of Israel. In the course of this intervention, launched and maintained in defiance of repeated Security Council resolutions, Egypt established a general blockade against Israel and began to visit and search ships of all nationalities passing through the Suez Canal, thus violating the freedom of the seas and contravening the Constantinople Convention of 1888 under which the power contiguous to the Suez Canal is bound to keep the Canal "always . . . free and open in time of war as in time of peace to every vessel of commerce or of war without distinction of flag." The avowed objective of this blockade was to prevent the passage of ships carrying cargo to Israel.

MEANING OF THE ARMISTICE

On February 24, 1949, a General Armistice Agreement was signed at Rhodes between Israel and Egypt in the presence of United Nations representatives, Dr. Ralph Bunche and General Riley. The United Nations Chief of Staff reported to the Security Council on June 13, 1951, (Document S 2194) that:

"It was certainly never contemplated at Rhodes that what is, in effect, an act of blockade . . . would be continued by one of the parties to the General Armistice Agreement more than two years after it had been signed."

This then is an authoritative interpretation of the meaning of the Armistice Agreement. Notwithstanding the signature of this Agreement with its categorical injunction in Article II (2), against "any warlike or hostile act," the Egyptian Government continued to maintain a long list of items, including ships, important categories of goods and particularly petroleum, as subject to seizure as "contraband" if found destined for Israel.

Ships transporting or suspected of transporting such goods were detained for visit and search, and goods of certain categories were removed and confiscated. The threat of forcible interference acted as a deterrent to the normal trade which would otherwise

have passed through the Suez Canal to or from Israel. For example, the hundreds of oil tankers which pass annually through the Suez Canal were allowed transit only on condition that they avoided any destination in Israel. Thus the blockade operated mainly through the deterrent effects arising from the existence of the regulations themselves, and only secondarily through specific acts of interference with certain vessels, in cases where the deterrent influence of the regulations had not been sufficient to prevent trading with Israel. In seeking to justify these regulations the Egyptian Government has frankly admitted that these are hostile acts dependent upon a state of war." Indeed, the whole practice has been based on the assumption that Egypt possesses an internationally recognized right of war against Israel which all other Powers are bound to respect.

VIEWS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On August 11, 1949, the Security Council took note of the Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel which had been concluded pursuant to its own Resolution of November 16, 1948. On March 24, 1949, the Representative of Egypt had stated in the Security Council that the Agreement had been animated by his country's spirit of peaceful cooperation and by its policy of "respect for the Security Council and unflinching compliance with the Security Council's Resolution." In its Resolution of August 11, 1949, the Security Council decided that the Armistice treaties superseded the truce. It was, therefore, the sense of the Security Council that the restrictions imposed by the truce should no longer be applied by one party against the other, or by the United Nations against both. Incidentally, the blockade was illegal even during the truce, as established by the Chief of Staff's ruling. The Armistice was far more explicit in requiring the total abandonment of all hostile acts. It emerged clearly in the Security Council's discussion that while some Armistice Agreements in past history had been envisaged as mere temporary interruptions of renewable hostilities with the result that certain belligerent practices could be maintained, this particular Agreement was a contract by the two parties to renounce any prospect of renewed hostilities, and thereby any rights or duties based upon that prospect. Dr. Bunche, who had represented the United Nations in the negotiation of the Egypt-Israel

Armistice Agreement, and who must, therefore, be regarded as the chief United Nations authority on the interpretation of that Agreement, reported to the Security Council on July 26, 1949, that Egyptian restrictions on shipping were contrary to the Agreement which had now been signed and which the Security Council was about to endorse. He said:

"The Armistice Agreements are not the final peace settlement, but the only possible interpretation of their very specific provisions is that they signal the end of the military phase of the Palestine situation. The objective should now be to restore normal conditions of peace to the fullest possible extent. . . . The entire heritage of restrictions which developed out of the undeclared war should now be done away with. . . . There should be free movement for legitimate shipping and no vestiges of the wartime blockade should be allowed to remain, as they are inconsistent with both the letter and the spirit of the Armistice Agreements."

Accordingly the Security Council on August 11, 1949, requested the signatory governments to observe the Armistice Agreements and reminded them that those Agreements "include firm pledges against any further act of hostility between the parties."

ACTS OF HOSTILITY UNJUSTIFIED

That the blockade practices at Suez are "acts of hostility" is a matter on which Egypt and Israel have always agreed. Indeed, it has been a rare feature of this case that the two parties and the United Nations authorities concerned have not differed on the basic facts and definitions involved. It is agreed by both parties that Egypt does practice these acts of hostility, and that it does so on the assumption by Egypt of a state of war. The conflict has been between the Egyptian view that such acts of hostility are legitimate, and the doctrine supported by Israel, all the maritime powers, the Chief of Staff of the United Nations and the Security Council that such acts are not legitimate, and that there is no justification for them in any alleged "state of war."

The Security Council's decision in August 1949 thus made it clear that the Security Council did not expect that any acts of hostility would continue, or that several years after the conclusion of these

Agreements a signatory government would actually claim recognition for a belligerent status which it had not even ventured to assert when it launched and maintained the original hostility. The Security Council's Resolution of August 11, 1949, was considered by its authors to mark the end of all restrictions arising from concepts of belligerency. There was to be a cancellation both of restrictions on the sale and purchase of arms, and of restrictions upon the free movement of shipping. The Security Council's intent was clarified by the United States, on whose behalf Ambassador Austin said:

"I submit that these pledges of non-aggression are a really solid basis for a permanent and lasting peace in Palestine. . . . These restraints are no longer appropriate or necessary now that we have firm commitments from the parties in the Armistice Agreement to refrain from all hostile activity and to adjust their differences, if any, peaceably."

It is ironical to record that this interpretation of the Agreement as a permanent and final end to hostilities, and therefore as the annulment of any state of war, was enthusiastically upheld by the Representative of Egypt in the Security Council in August 1949. The Egyptian Government was anxious at that time to restore its freedom to import arms and war material—a freedom which had been suspended by the truce. It was, therefore, its urgent interest and concern to hold that the General Armistice Agreement by its specific provisions put an end to the truce, with all its considerations of military advantage. Mr. Mahmoud Fawzi quoted with approval the statements of Dr. Bunche and others that restrictions arising from the state of hostilities must end, and that the world community should cease to deal with Egypt or the other countries in the area as if they were still subject to special restrictions arising from their belligerent status. He even referred approvingly to my own statement that the Agreement at Rhodes should be regarded as a provisional peace settlement which could only be supplemented by a final peace settlement, and that this Agreement had no time limit, and that restrictions arising from a state of hostility should be abandoned.

THE DISCUSSION IN THE MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION

It is obvious, of course, that the Security Council's decision to restore legal freedom in the sale and purchase of arms to governments in the area cannot possibly be reconciled with any view that a state of war continued to exist.

Despite the clear sentiment of the Security Council and its representatives for abandoning all acts of hostility and, especially, acts of blockade, the Egyptian practices continued in full force. On August 29, 1949, the Egyptian-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission made the following decision: *"The Mixed Armistice Commission thinks it has the right to demand that the Egyptian Government shall not interfere with the passage of goods to Israel through the Suez Canal."*

Egypt continued to refuse compliance, and appealed to the Special Committee established to hear appeals against the decisions or competence of the Mixed Armistice Commission. This Committee consists of representatives of the two signatory governments meeting under the chairmanship of the United Nations Chief of Staff.

The appeal was lodged but fourteen months passed without any abandonment of the blockade, notwithstanding many individual protests by the maritime powers. Accordingly, my Government again drew the attention of the Security Council to this question in October 1950. After a brief discussion during which several representatives condemned the Egyptian practice in vigorous terms, the Security Council referred the matter back to the Special Committee for a final attempt to resolve it within the framework of the armistice machinery. The Security Council has always refused to discuss the substance of problems still pending before the Mixed Armistice Commission or the Special Committee. I am confident that this will continue to be its policy, for otherwise we must bring all our complaints, both resolved and unresolved, to the Council's table. So far, however, from giving any sanction to the Egyptian theory that under the Armistice Agreement the parties might continue to apply certain policies on the grounds of war, the Security Council in its resolution of November 17, 1950, recalled that the Armistice Agreements between Israel and the Arab states included "firm pledges against any further acts of hostility between the parties."

In January and June 1951, the Israel-Egypt Special Committee met under the chairmanship of General Riley to hear the appeal by the Egyptian Government against the decision of the Mixed Armistice Commission on August 29, 1949.

THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHIEF OF STAFF

The Chief of Staff reported on the work of this Committee in a letter to the Security Council on 12 June 1951 (S 2194). His observations on behalf of the Special Committee dealt with two points. The first was a matter of jurisdiction. Did the Mixed Armistice Commission have sufficiently wide terms of reference to deal with such a broad international question as the Egyptian blockade? In the second place the Chief of Staff dealt with the question of substance: whether Egypt had a right to maintain these practices. On the jurisdictional point the Special Committee held that the Mixed Armistice Commission lacked the competence to deal with the matter because of its restricted terms of reference. The reason given for this ruling, however, was not that the blockade was consistent with the armistice, but, on the contrary, that it was such a grave breach that a higher organ must render the final decision. The Chief of Staff said:

"It is quite clear to me that action taken by Egyptian authorities in interfering with passage of goods destined for Israel through the Suez Canal must be considered an aggressive action. . . . Similarly, I must of necessity consider that the interference with the passage of goods is a hostile act. . . ."

"In my opinion, this interference is an aggressive and hostile action. . . ."

He stated further:

"... I must also say that the action of the Egyptian authorities in this instance is, in my view, entirely contrary to the spirit of the General Armistice Agreement and does, in fact, jeopardize its effective functioning. It was certainly never contemplated at Rhodes that what is, in effect, an act of blockade, or at least an act undertaken in the spirit of blockade, and having the partial effect of one, would be continued by one of the parties to the General Armistice Agreement more than two years after it had been signed."

The Chief of Staff's report on the work of the Special Committee went on to make it clear that the matter should be referred to the Security Council. He said:

It certainly is clear to me that the question cannot rest here. Either the Egyptian Government must, in the spirit of the General Armistice Agreement, relax the practice of interference with the passage of goods destined for Israel through the Suez Canal, or the question must be referred to some higher competent authority. . . . The General Armistice Agreement was never intended to provide a cloak for the commission of acts by either party which in their intent and effects are indeed hostile.

The Chief of Staff concluded with what he called a "strong request" to Egypt to "desist from the present practice of interfering with goods destined for Israel through the Suez Canal, since such acts can only be construed as inconsistent with the spirit of the Armistice Agreement."

In accordance with the Chief of Staff's opinion that the question "must be referred to some higher competent authority," the Government of Israel brought a complaint to the Security Council on July 11, 1951.

THE 1951 DEBATE

The Security Council devoted its close and earnest attention to this problem for seven weeks, at the end of which it adopted the Resolution of September 1, 1951. (Full text of the 1951 Resolution may be found as an Appendix.) This Resolution is the basic document for the Security Council's present consideration. The issues resolved in the 1951 discussion are of great importance today, because nothing has happened since that time to change the basic legal principles at issue.

In opposing the blockade restrictions, Israel, supported by a majority of the Council, argued that the application of the regulations was a "hostile act," as indeed Egypt had confessed, that as such it was inconsistent with the Armistice Agreement which the two parties had voluntarily signed; that Dr. Boudhe and General Riles should be supported in their assertion that neither party retained, if indeed it had ever possessed, the right to exercise

warlike acts, such as blockades, against each other; that Egypt's invasion of the State of Israel in 1948 against the injunctions of the Security Council did not endow Egypt with special privileges and rights of war which the Security Council should now be called upon to recognize; that Egypt could not invoke rights of "self-defense" or "self-preservation" as justification of this action under the terms of Article 51 of the Charter, since no armed attack had been made against Egypt, nor had the Security Council failed to deal with the situation in question; that if certain sovereign countries desired to trade with Israel and other sovereign countries made their ships available for that purpose, Egypt had no right to impose its will upon those countries or to obstruct such legitimate commerce by exploiting its propinquity to the Suez Canal; that the grave losses inflicted on the economy of Israel and of other countries through these restrictions constituted an outrageous injury by one member state against others; that since all members of the United Nations had permanently renounced armed force as an instrument of national policy, no single state could seek respect for belligerent rights, since belligerency was nothing but a political and legal formula for regulating the threat or use of force; that there was therefore no room within the regime of the Charter for the classic conceptions of legitimate belligerency, especially in respect of hostilities not sanctioned by the United Nations and, indeed, undertaken against its explicit will; that irrespective of whatever other Armistice Agreements in past or present history had allowed or forbidden, the Agreement signed by Egypt and Israel at Rhodes on February 24, 1949, utterly forbade any action based on the rights of war, or on any presumption of renewable hostility; that the Security Council in its Resolutions of August 11, 1949, and November 17, 1950, had correctly defined the Armistice Agreement as a permanent pledge to abstain from all hostile acts; that if Egypt were free to commit hostile acts of its choice against Israel, then Israel would be free to commit hostile acts of its choice against Egypt and to invoke "a state of war" as legal foundation for these actions; that, accordingly, any acquiescence in the Egyptian practice or in the grounds on which it was based must inevitably lead to the collapse of peace and security in the Middle East; that beyond the special provisions of the Armistice Agreement and of the Security Council Resolu-

tious the Egyptian practice violated general principles of international law which protected the rights of all nations to navigate freely upon and between the high seas, that while the case against the Egyptian blockade rested primarily and directly upon the Armistice Agreement, the Security Council Resolutions and the United Nations Charter, this practice was also in the view of many delegations inconsistent with the Constantinople Convention of 1856; that for all the above reasons the Security Council had both the right and the duty to require Egypt to abstain from such interference with the trade of Israel and other countries and with the rights of maritime powers; and that the Security Council should issue a verdict not only against the Egyptian blockade restrictions as such, but also against the very concept of belligerency upon which the Egyptian practice sought its sole justification.

Members of the Security Council, with varying degrees of emphasis, spoke strongly in favour of each of these themes. Outside the Council nearly all the maritime powers found occasion to express their interest both in unconditional freedom of navigation and in the immediate and total abolition of these illicit Egyptian regulations. For here was an attempt by Egypt to apply its legislative authority, under sanction of force, not only to its own citizens and territory, but also to ships, the maritime rights and the commercial policies of other sovereign States.

ANALYSIS OF THE 1951 RESOLUTION

These were the main arguments against the restrictions. A study of the Resolution adopted by the Council on September 1, 1951, reveals how fully and comprehensively the Security Council put its high authority behind the case for the complete termination of these practices.

In the first two paragraphs of its Resolution the Security Council recalled its previous Resolutions of August 11, 1948, and November 17, 1950, which interpreted the Armistice Agreements as including "firm pledges against any further acts of hostility between the parties." Blockade practices are, by universal consent, of course, acts of hostility.

In its third paragraph the Security Council drew attention to the report of the Chief of Staff of June 12, 1951, expressing the opinion that the Egyptian interference with shipping jeopardised

the effective functioning of the Armistice Agreement." In the same Report, the Chief of Staff had referred to this Egyptian practice as a "hostile and aggressive act" and as a policy the continuation of which had definitely not been envisaged by the parties when they set their hands to that Agreement at Rhodes.

In paragraph 4 the Security Council noted that Egypt had not complied with the earnest plea of the Chief of Staff that they "desist from the present practice of interfering with the passage through the Suez Canal of goods destined for Israel."

In paragraph 5, which is of decisive importance in relation both to the Suez Canal and to any other similar practice, and which constitutes what the representative of France was later to describe as "the legal foundation of the Security Council's action," the Security Council determined that "The armistice regime is of a permanent character so that neither party can reasonably assert that it is actively a belligerent or requires to exercise the right of visit, search and seizure for any legitimate purpose of self-defence."

In paragraph 6 the Security Council determined that the maintenance of the Egyptian restrictions is inconsistent with the central purposes of the Armistice Agreement.

In paragraph 7 the Security Council disqualified the Egyptian practice on general grounds of international maritime law by defining it as "an abuse of the exercise of the right to visit, search and seizure."

In paragraph 8 the Security Council categorically dismissed the Egyptian contention that the Egyptian practice could be justified on the grounds of "self-defence."

In paragraph 9 the Security Council condemned the attempt of the Egyptian Government to impose its legislation and its policy of hostility to Israel upon other countries, noting that those restrictions represented unjustified interference with the rights of nations to navigate the seas and to trade freely with one another, including the Arab States and Israel.

Finally, in paragraph 10, the Security Council called upon Egypt to terminate the restrictions on the passage of international commercial shipping and goods through the Suez Canal, wherever bound, and to cease all interference with such shipping beyond that required for technical considerations of safety or for the observance of international conventions.

EGYPTIAN RESTRICTIONS INVALID

The Security Council may well observe with pride that its Resolution of September 1, 1951, is a document of high character in the political, legal and moral sense. With deliberate clarity it recorded a specific statement of United Nations policy on every single one of the issues involved in the case before it. It analysed the Egyptian restrictions from the viewpoints of general international law, of maritime practice, of the United Nations Charter, of the Security Council's previous Resolutions, and of the Egyptian-Israeli Armistice Agreement. The Egyptian restrictions were examined, judged and found invalid on each and every one of these grounds. Formulated in these categorical terms, the Resolution left Egypt with a clear choice: either to respect its Agreement with Israel, or to impose its rights and interests upon other countries. Security Council and the rights and interests of other countries to repudiate the Agreement, to defy the Security Council, to violate the Charter and to impose piratical practices upon other countries desiring to navigate and to trade peacefully along the maritime channels of the world.

It is profoundly regrettable that Egypt should have rejected the former course and chosen the latter; the more so since many countries, large and small, have made earnest efforts to bring Egypt's policy and doctrine into conformity with international law and Security Council decisions.

POSITION SINCE 1951

I now come to recount what has happened since the Security Council adopted its Resolution. Egypt's defiance has been comprehensive and complete. Not the slightest notice has been taken of the Security Council's findings and decisions. No heed at all has been paid to the views and opinions expressed over a period of five years by organs and representatives of the United Nations, or by individual countries with a legitimate interest in free passage through international waterways in general, and through the Suez Canal in particular.

In the first place, the offensive regulations denounced by the Security Council have remained in full force. Where they have been amended at all the change has been designed to aggravate the

offence. I should again make it clear that the blockade works principally through the very existence of the regulations and their consequent deterrent effects, and only secondarily through actual assaults and confiscations. Having no means to overcome the force at the disposal of Egyptian authorities in the Suez Canal, maritime nations have been compelled reluctantly to respect the very restrictions to which they and the United Nations are totally opposed. They have had to agree, against their own will and interest, to avoid bringing certain cargoes to Israel as the price of passage through the Suez Canal, in which their rights of navigation should be regarded as absolute and unconditional. The very knowledge that interference is either certain or possible carries out the purposes of the blockade. Thus, in a sense, the fewer the actual incidents of detention and confiscation, the worse is the position and the graver the proof of transgression by the very existence of the regulations.

Let me give two illustrations of this point: First, scarcely a single one of the hundreds of tankers passing each year through the Suez Canal has recently tried to sell part of its cargo at the Israel port of Haifa. This simply proves, however, that the blockade in this respect has been complete and water-tight, and that the Egyptian Government has extorted from other governments an unwilling surrender to its own illegitimate regulations. For it had been proclaimed and practised that whenever a tanker exercised its undoubted right of delivering its crude oil to Israel as in any other Mediterranean port, it would be subject to penalties and sanctions effectively preventing its future operations in the Suez Canal. Seventy tankers which had exercised this right had been put on the Egyptian "black list." Tens of millions of dollars have been lost to Israel and larger sums to other countries through the need to purchase thousands of miles away the oil which should be available locally if Egypt stopped its piracy. This is merely a single item in the great balance of loss inflicted by this illegal blockade.

Second, the same is true of Israel flag ships. The right of ships of all nationalities to free navigation through the Suez Canal justly pertains to Israel ships as well as to others. Although we possess this undoubted right, we have so far refrained from using it, knowing full well that the Egyptian regulations, although condemned by the Security Council, are nevertheless being exer-

cised and would be applied against such ships. For the same reason, many plans and prospects of legitimate trade between Israel and countries on the African and Asian continents have had to be renounced, for no other reason than that the position in the Suez Canal waterway is governed not by international law, but by illicit and arbitrary practices imposed by Egypt against the will of the international community.

Thus, when it is argued for Egypt that the traffic through the Canal for destinations other than Israel is constant and that the actual confiscations are relatively few, the argument is itself an index of Egypt's successful and flagrant transgression. It is like an armed highway robber saying that few people pass along his route these days in a direction which he does not approve, and that he therefore seldom has to use his gun. The more traffic passing through the Canal for destinations other than Israel and the fewer the confiscations, the more drastic and effective does this prove the blockade to be.

RECENT DETENTIONS AND CONFISCATIONS

Nevertheless there has been active intervention by the Egyptian authorities, in cases where sovereign countries have righteously declined to be intimidated by the restrictive regulations themselves. The Egyptian authorities have drawn up a "black list" of ships bearing certain materials to Israel, and penalties are imposed upon these vessels when they pass through the Canal. The disembarkation of their crews on Egyptian soil is forbidden and water and fuel are withheld. By the middle of 1950, the number of ships on this black list had reached 88 of which 70 were oil tankers — and this for the crime of attempting to trade peacefully with Israel through an international waterway. This fully explains why such vessels have found it hard to exercise their free choice in respect of visiting Israel ports.

From time to time my Government has informed the Security Council of specific acts which illustrate the incidence of the blockade. I will recount some of the most recent episodes.

On October 31, 1952, a cargo of meat on the Norwegian vessel Rimfrost, proceeding from Massawa to Haifa through the Suez Canal was confiscated.

On January 24, 1953, the Danish ship 'Andreas Beyer' was

detained in the Gulf of Elath on its journey from Elath to Mombassa. It was escorted by an armed corvette to an Egyptian command post and held for 24 hours. On its way back from Mombassa to Elath, this Danish vessel was again held up at the entrance to the Gulf on March 10, 1953, and held against its will for 33 hours.

On September 2, 1953, the Greek ship 'Parnon' was detained at Port Said on its voyage from Haifa, with a cargo of building materials for Elath, and of Israel manufactured motor cars destined for Mombassa. The ship was detained by the Egyptian authorities for 11 days, and its cargo forcibly held.

On November 4, 1953, the Norwegian vessel 'Rimfrost' was again detained in the Canal on its way from Elath to Haifa and two fishing boats on board destined for Italy were confiscated.

On December 3, 1953, Egyptian guns fired at the United States vessel 'Alhion' at the entry to the Gulf of Aqaba, with a cargo of wheat from Boston to the Jordanian port of Aqaba. This was a shipment of wheat to reduce famine in Jordan. The Egyptian authorities stated that they had acted in this way in the belief that the ship's destination was the Israel port of Elath. It is, of course, a fact that an American, or indeed any other vessel, has precisely the same right to proceed to Elath in Israel, as to Aqaba in Jordan, and that in neither case is it the business of the Egyptian Government to interfere with its free passage.

On December 16, 1953, 140 tons of meat and 20 tons of hides aboard the Italian ship 'Franca Maria' were confiscated on the way from Massawa to Haifa.

On December 20, 1953, a cargo of clothing and bicycles en route from Melbourne, Australia, to Genoa were confiscated from the Norwegian ship 'Laritan' on the grounds that the ship had an Israel port as its destination.

On January 1, 1954, Egyptian gunfire was directed at the entry of the Gulf of Aqaba against the Italian ship 'Maria Antonia' on the way from Massawa to Elath. The ship was forcibly compelled to return to its port of origin.

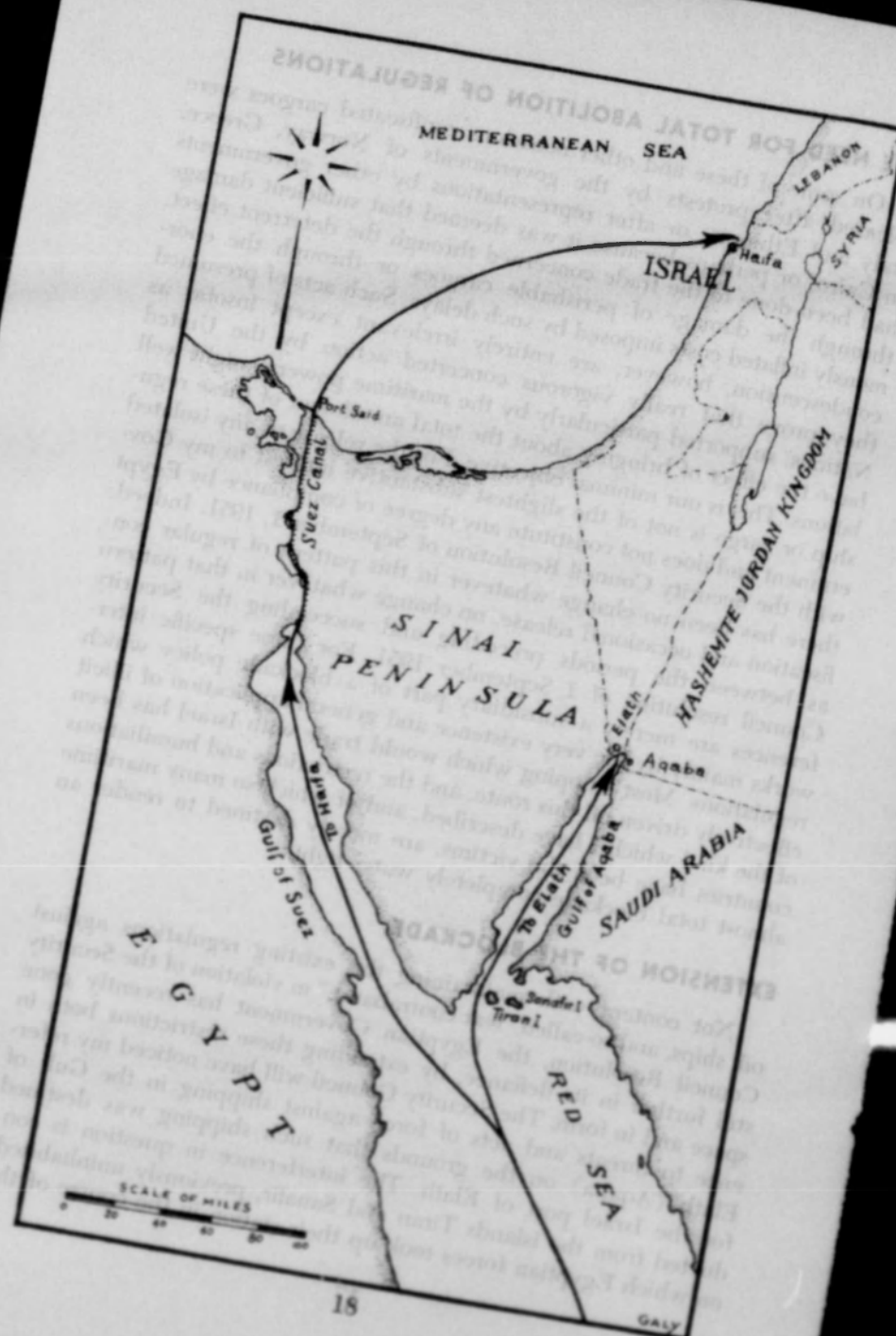
Other maritime powers are in possession of information about many more incidents than these, which have come to my Government's specific notice by reason of the destination to which the ships were proceeding.

THE NEED FOR TOTAL ABOLITION OF REGULATIONS

On some of these and other occasions confiscated cargoes were released after protests by the governments of Norway, Greece, Italy and Ethiopia, or after representations by other governments in Cairo; or perhaps because it was deemed that sufficient damage had been done to the trade concerned through the deterrent effect through the damage of perishable cargoes or through the enormously inflated costs imposed by such delays. Such acts of presumed condescension, however, are entirely irrelevant except insofar as they prove that really vigorous concerted action by the United Nations, supported particularly by the maritime powers, might well have the effect of bringing about the total annulment of these regulations. This is our minimal objective. For the release of any isolated ship or cargo is not of the slightest substantive interest to my Government and does not constitute any degree of compliance by Egypt with the Security Council Resolution of September 1, 1951. Indeed, there has been no change whatever in this pattern of regular confiscation and occasional release, no change whatever in that pattern as between the periods preceding and succeeding the Security Council resolution of 1 September 1951. For these specific interferences are merely a subsidiary part of a blockade policy which works mainly by the very existence and general application of illicit regulations. Most shipping which would trade with Israel has been effectively driven off this route, and the restrictions and humiliations of the kind which I have described, and of which so many maritime countries have been the victims, are merely destined to render an almost total blockade completely water-tight.

EXTENSION OF THE BLOCKADE

Not content with maintaining the existing regulations against oil, ships and so-called "war contraband" in violation of the Security Council Resolution, the Egyptian Government has recently gone still further in its defiance, by extending these restrictions both in scope and in form. The Security Council will have noticed my reference to threats and acts of force against shipping in the Gulf of Elath (Aqaba) on the grounds that such shipping was destined for the Israel port of Elath. The interference in question is conducted from the islands Tiran and Sanafir, previously uninhabited, on which Egyptian forces took up their station in the course of the



year 1949. From this vantage point, too, the Egyptian Government has acted like a highway robber at a narrow crossroads, dictating its will to those who pass to and fro. For this practice, as for the original restrictions in the Suez Canal waterway, Egypt's sole justification — which is frankly avowed — is the exercise of "belligerent rights." Whereas the restrictions in the Suez Canal are applied by the authority of the Egyptian Government with the implicit sanction of force if its authority is defied, the restrictions in the Gulf of Aqaba are applied by the actual use of artillery or armed naval units.

There is, of course, no legal or generic difference between the character of these two acts, restrictions at Suez and those in the Gulf of Aqaba, and both are covered by the Security Council's Resolution of September 1, 1951, as well as by the General Armistice Agreement. Either Egypt may exercise the rights of war at sea against Israel — or it may not. If it may, then it could conceivably practice its blockade policy both in the Suez Canal and in the Gulf of Aqaba, if in the former case it were prepared, as it appears to be, to ignore the Constantinople Convention. If, however, the situation of law under the Armistice Agreement is that Egypt may not justifiably exercise "rights" of war at sea, then such exercise is equally illegal whether practised at Port Said, in the Suez Canal or in an international waterway leading into the Gulf of Aqaba.

ILLEGAL PRACTICE IN ANY WATERS

While the Security Council's Resolution of September 1, 1951, includes a specific ban on restrictions against shipping in the Suez Canal — since at that time the blockade was practised there alone — the same Resolution destroys the legal basis for all similar practices in other waters. In this connection special importance attaches to paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 which constitute a general denial by the Security Council of the Egyptian doctrine of belligerent rights and, therefore, of any actions anywhere based upon that doctrine. Paragraph 5 determines without specific reference to any particular waterway that "neither party can reasonably assert that it is actively a belligerent or requires to exercise the right of visit, search and seizure for any legitimate purpose of self-defence."

This injunction is repeated in general language in the ensuing three paragraphs. Thus, the Security Council's denial of belligerency

was not restricted to any particular area of the high seas.

In a memorandum which I addressed to the Security Council on July 11, 1951, I expressed the apprehension that unless the blockade practice at Suez was checked "there is disquietening evidence that it will become increasingly extended to other waters." Unhappily this has proved to be the case. I have no doubt whatever that since the Security Council has denounced the original blockade practice, it will, with increased vigor, condemn a defiant extension of that practice. There can be no question that if the sovereign government of Ethiopia, or of any other country in Africa or Asia desires to trade with the sovereign Government of Israel, whether through the Suez Canal waterway or through the Gulf of Aqaba, and if the sovereign Government of Italy or of Greece or Denmark wishes to make its shipping available for such trade, then it is an encroachment by Egypt upon the sovereignty of all those countries when it attempts to impose upon them its own policy of boycott and blockade. Whether other countries sell oil or food or clothing or any article whatsoever to Israel, and whether they import any article whatsoever from Israel, is a matter falling within their exclusive discretion, and one over which Egypt has not the slightest right to impose its own will against their consent. These countries are not colonies of Egypt, and are not called upon to subject their commercial or economic policies to Egypt's condescension or agreement.

Any claim by Egypt that in the Gulf of Elath it is merely exercising the rights of sovereignty in territorial waters would be totally frivolous, since it is a physical geographical fact that there is no way of approaching any place on the northern shore of that narrow gulf without a ship passing through the territorial waters of any or all of four countries — Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

ALL ACTS OF BLOCKADE RULED OUT

We should thus arrive at the absurdity that any one of those four governments could at any time use its armed force in the straits of Aqaba to prevent a ship from reaching any other of the three littoral states. It is not difficult to conceive what a maritime jangle would be created by such a ludicrous theory. International law and practice on this question is quite clear and explicit. I shall also be able, if necessary, to offer documentary proof in my Govern-

ment's possession that the Egyptian Government knows and has stated in writing to another friendly government that interference with free passage in the Gulf of Aqaba is contrary to international law. In any case, however, the blockade practice at Elath is specifically ruled out, first by Article II (2) of the Armistice Agreement forbidding any warlike or hostile acts, second, by the interpretation of Dr. Bunche and General Riley that all acts of blockade are ruled out by the Armistice Agreement, and were so understood at Rhodes; third, by the Security Council's Resolutions of August 11, 1949, and November 17, 1950, forbidding any further hostile acts whether at Suez or anywhere else; and, finally, by the Security Council's Resolution of September 1, 1951, which in its fifth paragraph disqualifies Egypt from exercising rights of visit, search and seizure in any waters on the grounds of active belligerency.

ALL ARAB STATES SUPPORT EGYPT

I would like to summarize the souther course of events since the adoption of the Security Council's Resolution on September 1, 1951. The regulations originally denounced by the Security Council have been retained in full force with the result that the deterrent blockade has become increasingly tightened. The number of active interventions against the ships of many countries has increased, with adverse immediate effects and with the purpose of closing any loopholes through which legitimate navigation and commerce may still take place. The restrictions have been extended to the Gulf of Aqaba in violation of the Armistice Agreement and the Security Council Resolutions of August 11, 1949, November 17, 1950, and September 1, 1951. In the Suez Canal itself new restrictions have been introduced in addition to those already defined as illegal, and wider categories of goods are brought under the abusive practice of visit, search and seizure. Special regulations are reported to have been instituted to interfere with shipping passing through the Suez Canal to Elath. And what is more important than whether there is a new regulation or not, ships passing between Haifa and Elath are interfered with, whether it be under an old decree or a new one.

Another development in this period, equally grave, is the publication of a memorandum ascribed by the Egyptian press to the Government of Egypt setting out the reasons for these new restrictions. The operative part of this memorandum reads as follows: —

The Anti-Israel Boycott Committee (that includes all members of the Arab League) asked for the passing of legislation designed to tighten the siege against Israel both by confiscating all Israeli goods of all kinds and by seizing all ships carrying goods to or from Israel, as is being practised in all other Arab countries. The Arab Governments also asked Egypt to take appropriate measures in order to confiscate food shipments going to Israel through Egyptian territorial waters in a manner similar to the measures undertaken by the Governments of Iraq, Syria and Jordan. These Governments have not made any distinction between war contraband and food. They are confiscating all shipments going to or coming from Israel as they consider them to be enemy property.

Similarly, the Director of the Coastal Guard Department submitted a memorandum pointing out that Israel was showing increasing economic activity and was establishing a merchant fleet to handle all its imports from South and East Africa. In conclusion the Director asked that the Decree of February 10, 1950, be amended in such a manner as to allow confiscation of food and other commodities, and he pointed out that the committee of Ministerial Undersecretaries expressed agreement with this view.

In view of the fact that modern wars are characterised by the total mobilisation of all economic resources in support of the war potential, as well as by the direct or indirect participation of the peoples in the belligerent states, it has become difficult to distinguish between the fighting forces and the civilian population and between the supplies destined for one or the other of them. It has therefore become customary in international relations to regard all imports of a belligerent state as war contraband. Consequently, Egypt has to take stern measures to attain the desired end.

The Security Council will note that this memorandum is a document of rare insolence, for it adduces in support of the Egyptian practice a series of arguments every one of which has been categorically rejected by the Security Council in its Resolution of September 1, 1951.

THE EGYPTIAN DOCTRINE

The Security Council cannot fail to ask itself in astonishment on what grounds these illegal acts can possibly be justified by Egypt against the accumulated weight of international censure. On no single occasion have the Egyptian authorities been able to find such justification except in terms of arguments already heard and rejected by the Security Council itself.

Let me analyze briefly what these arguments have been. First, Egypt has contended that there exists a state of war between Egypt and Israel, and that Egypt consequently has an alleged "right" to perform hostile acts against Israel. The fact is, however, that no such legitimate "state of war" exists. Egypt has never declared war against Israel or requested international recognition of such a declaration. The Egyptian assault upon Israel was confessed by the Egyptian representative in the Security Council to have arisen from Egyptian initiative without declaration of war. The United States representative referred to this assault as "an aggression of international character," and other representatives endorsed this definition. So far from according recognition to this attack, the Security Council requested Egypt not to launch it at all, and to bring it to an end as soon as it had been launched. It is surprising to hear it suggested that Egypt now possesses a series of rights and immunities at the expense of Israel and other nations, arising from the fact that it burst out of its frontier, in May 1948, against the will and injunction of the Security Council. Even more fantastic is the Egyptian thesis that acts based on an unrecognised state of war can be justified five years after the end of hostilities and two and a half years after the Security Council has rejected the Egyptian concept of a state of war, and any acts of blockade based upon that concept. In our discussions of 1951, I pointed out that the Egyptian theory of the state of war had not even been sincerely or consistently held. In August 1949, the Egyptian representative took the opposite view, holding that since no residue of a state of war existed, belligerent restrictions should no longer be applied, and Egypt should regain its freedom to import arms.

Even earlier in April 1949, it had been reported from Lausanne that

"Arab representatives have informed the Palestine Conciliation Commission that as there has never been a formal state

of war with Israel, no formal peace treaty with Israel can be signed."

The Security Council can now draw its conclusions about this selective theory of a state of war. When Egypt wishes to import arms or declines to sign a peace treaty, they claim virtuously that no state of war ever existed. When it comes to searching desperately for legal ground on which to justify a blockade, a full grown "state of war" springs into miraculous existence for the first time, long after the signature of an agreement signifying the end of hostilities.

This must be the first time in international history that a state of war has originated from hostilities long after their official and permanent termination.

Finally, this Egyptian argument based on a "state of war" is refuted in the Security Council's Resolution of September 1, 1951 (Paragraph 5). It was also dismissed in the discussion by the Representatives of France (SPV 552, paragraphs 19-20, and 30), the United Kingdom (SPV 552, paragraphs 7 and 10), the Netherlands (SPV 553, paragraph 15) and Brazil (SPV 552, paragraphs 54-57).

The Brazilian representative correctly pointed out:

"I must say that the Council should not allow the thesis of the existence of a state of war between Israel and the other signatories of the General Armistice Agreement of 1949 to justify the resort to hostile acts by any of the parties. . . . Should we accept the Egyptian thesis, we should be bound to recognize any measures of reprisal adopted by the Israel Government. It is obvious that in the exchange of hostile acts that would follow, we could hardly expect to lay the foundations of a genuine solution to the Palestine problem."

The second argument advanced by the Egyptian Government has been that since many treaties called armistice treaties in past or present history have not brought hostilities to a permanent end and have been compatible with the maintenance of belligerent rights, the Egyptian-Israel Agreement, which also has the word "armistice" in its title, must also co-exist with continued acts of hostility. It is assumed that all armistice treaties, by the very magic of the word "armistice," possess a single attribute and a single essential quality.

ARMISTICE CATEGORICALLY BANS HOSTILE ACTS

The Security Council naturally had no difficulty in dismissing this argument. It is quite immaterial to ask what other armistice treaties have contained or have not contained. The content of any other armistice agreement in the history of the world is entirely irrelevant to the Security Council's decision. Some agreements have been similar to peace treaties, and others have been little more than a military truce, but it matters nothing. The only issue is what is allowed or not allowed under this Armistice Agreement signed between Israel and Egypt at Rhodes on the 24th February 1949. This Agreement utterly and categorically forbids the continuation or resumption of any hostile acts. The United Nations Chief of Staff made this point cogently at a meeting of the Special Committee at which he said:

"Certainly there was no declaration of war, it was a question of acceptance or non-acceptance of the Security Council resolution of 1948 . . . certainly in their spirit and letter the Armistice Agreements had no thought of a resumption of hostilities. . . . You may quote all the international authorities in the world on armistice agreements, but when you check your own Armistice Agreement you will find that it is almost unique in history. The parties themselves have evolved in this Armistice Agreement certain principles on which international jurists have yet to write books, and certainly this Armistice Agreement does not in any way, shape or form justify either party talking about the resumption of war."

The same view was taken by the Security Council in its Resolutions of 11 August 1949, 17 November 1950, and September 1, 1951, stating that the Armistice Agreement forbade all hostile acts. Many members of the Security Council supported this view by rejecting the Egyptian thesis that this particular Armistice Agreement allowed the signatories to continue acts of hostility. To take one example out of many, I quote the Representative of France:

"The armistice regime which has been in existence between Egypt and Israel for nearly two and a half years differs from the classical type of armistice insofar as it is of an expressly permanent character and cannot therefore be annulled by a resumption of hostilities. It can only reach its consummation

by endorsing the peace it has already brought about. Since neither State is actively a belligerent there can be no justification for exercising the right of visit, search and seizure."

A third Egyptian argument has stated that these restrictions are necessary for purposes of "self defence" or "self-preservation."

The Security Council's Resolution of September 1, 1951, in paragraph 8 determined on the contrary "that the blockade practice cannot in the prevailing circumstances be justified on the ground that it is necessary for self defence." The doctrine of "self defence" was specifically denounced and rejected by the United Kingdom (SPV 550, paras. 93, 94), Brazil (SPV 550, para. 38), Ecuador (SPV 553, para. 122) and by the Netherlands (SPV 553, paras. 15 and 18). The Representative of the Netherlands correctly pointed out that the right of self defence defined in Article 51 of our Charter exists only when an armed attack has been carried out and even then until such time as the Security Council has intervened, and that neither of these two conditions has ever existed. Egypt has never been subjected or threatened by an armed attack from Israel, although Israel has been invaded by Egypt and is still a target of an Egyptian practice of belligerency. On the other hand, the Security Council has been dealing with Arab-Israel affairs since May 1948.

With these main arguments lying at its feet in ruins Egypt had recourse in 1951, as again today, to the most wild and reckless manoeuvres. Thus, it stated at one time that the Security Council lacked competence to deal with the question. Little was heard of this assertion in the course of the debate and I doubt if we shall hear it now.

The Security Council might find this hard to believe, but the Egyptian delegation asserted in 1951, that since five members of the Security Council had protested to Egypt against its maritime restrictions, they were parties to a "dispute" and should not be allowed to vote in the Security Council. This nonsense wasted the Council's time for forty-eight hours, which was presumably its sole objective.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S DUTY

Mr. President, is not the duty of the Security Council clear and urgent? Every consideration of international principle and

regional peace requires the confirmation and reinforcement by the Security Council of its established policy.

Such action is required in the first place in order to save the Egyptian-Israeli Armistice from total collapse. For how can such a treaty function effectively between two parties, one of which regards it as a total renunciation of hostile acts while the other interprets it as a cloak for acts of unilateral war? My Government is not prepared to acquiesce in such a travesty or to suffer acts of war without due response.

On this matter of the mutuality of the Armistice, the Representative of the United States said two and a half years ago:

"The United States is firmly of the opinion that the restrictions which Egypt is exercising over ships passing through the Suez Canal are inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the Armistice Agreement. . . . The result of this hostile act is the engendering of hostility in return which places in jeopardy the peace and stability of the area."

What value could be attached to other armistice decisions, to other requests and verdicts if in this broad question affecting this first of the four Armistice Agreements the final decision of the Security Council were to be contemptuously set aside? If the parties were to assume their own freedom to perform hostile acts against each other, who knows whether this melancholy sequence might lead? The Security Council is therefore called upon to act swiftly and effectively to save the integrity of the armistice system.

SUPREME TEST OF AUTHORITY

But the Security Council is also faced with a supreme test of its own authority. Never before in any issue affecting the Middle East has a Security Council decision on a matter of peace and security been thus comprehensively defied. Indeed, until recently all other cases which were not settled by the Armistice Committees have found a solution in the Security Council. If the authority of the Security Council as the final arbiter of armistice disputes were to be shattered by Egyptian intransigence, a central pillar of the armistice system would crumble away at the very moment when that system is in most need of stronger support.

With reference to the obligatory character of the Security

Council's resolution, let me recall that in the Security Council's debates in 1948, the present Foreign Minister of Egypt expressed himself vehemently concerning the optional character of General Assembly Resolutions. He said:

"Egypt does not choose to comply with the Resolution of the General Assembly, this is our privilege under the Charter."

Whatever the juridical merits of that view concerning other organs of the United Nations, the fact remains that Egypt has, by its signatures, recognized the Security Council's authority to supervise the Armistice Agreement.

It is clear from this fact and from our Charter that in such matters as these, affecting international peace and security, as the rights of war or hostile acts, decisions taken by this Council such as that handed down on September 1, 1951, possess a far greater legal and moral force than do the resolutions of any other international body. A grave moment will be reached in the history of the Security Council if this precedent for the total defiance of its will becomes more firmly established.

Beyond the integrity of the Armistice system and the authority of the Security Council which are both in deadly hazard, there arise in this case the great principles of international law relating to free navigation, principles sanctioned by long usage in the past, and never violated except at the risk of war. In November 1951 a "Commission to Study the Organization of Peace," established by the American Association for United Nations, cogently declared:

"To permit particular countries to take advantage of territorial propinquity, as newspapers reports indicate that Egypt is doing, will certainly provoke controversy and, perhaps, result in the threat to peace."

There is no member of the Security Council, indeed, there is scarcely a country in the world whose vital interests will not suffer if it is established by precedent that individual countries may, through the chance of geographical fortune, exercise arbitrary bans and restrictions without international consent over the narrow waterways which join the high seas and determine the unity of the maritime world. Every country in its vote and by its action should reflect whether it would agree to allow governments in propinquity

to these maritime channels to decide whether or not it should be debarred from free commerce and free navigation. This is such a sensitive question for so many countries, that it is not surprising to find that a blockade practice of this kind has seldom lasted for long without resulting in a threat to international peace.

PEACE OF MIDDLE EAST AT STAKE

Another issue here is the peace of the Middle East which is bound to recede even further into the future if the existing Armistice Agreements, based in the last resort, on Security Council Resolutions are allowed to degenerate into a sequence of hostile acts.

So, too, will the economic welfare of the region be undermined if sanction is given to these outrageous wasteful practices, forcing states in the area to depend on remote markets and sources of supply and thus remaining artificially dependent on external assistance.

While Israel is the avowed target of these illegal policies, we cannot fail to be inspired by the messages of solidarity and support which have reached us from so many maritime countries, both within and outside the Security Council, whose legitimate freedom to navigate the seas in peace is an essential element of their welfare and security.

The question now before the Security Council is not whether Egypt's conduct is legitimate or illegitimate, or indeed whether Egypt should terminate its illegal practices. The illegality of Egypt's practices and its obligation to abandon them have already been clearly determined. The main task now is to devise measures for the prompt fulfilment of the Council's decision so as to safeguard the freedom of international waterways from interferences based on claims of belligerency, and thus to secure respect of Egypt's obligations under the General Armistice Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations.

FAITH IN INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS

Perhaps the most frustrating feature of this situation is that Egypt's compliance with the Security Council Resolution would involve no difficulty, no danger to Egypt, no prejudice to her economy or security, no burdens upon her political or economic freedom. There never has been a Security Council resolution with which it was more easy to comply. In this very Security Council

in its 175th meeting on August 5, 1947, the Egyptian Prime Minister, Nokrashi Pasha, while justly emphasizing the absoluteness of Egyptian sovereignty over every inch of Egyptian soil, stated that the Suez Canal was "a free artery, open to all nations in time of peace and in time of war."

The more we emphasize the fact of unqualified Egyptian sovereignty on each bank of the Suez Canal, the more we imply Egypt's unconditional duty to manifest the first token of such sovereignty—the capacity for faithful maintenance of international rights at this great historic crossroads where three continents of the old world meet.

The leaders of my Government have stated on many occasions that they have no desire whatever to impede the full attainment of Egypt's legitimate national aspirations, and I am empowered to reiterate that assurance. How remarkably would Egypt's prestige and authority be exalted for the benefit of its wider cause if, by the abandonment of these illicit regulations, it were to demonstrate its respect for international agreements, and its concern for the undoubted rights of other countries near and far?

For these reasons it is difficult to imagine how the Security Council could render a more significant contribution to the peace of the Middle East and of the world than by gathering the full weight of its influence behind its declared policy for the complete termination of these restrictions. Rarely could a single success communicate such wide influences of benefit to so many sectors of international life.

STRONGEST CENSURE CALLED FOR

The question now before the Council is not only whether Egypt's conduct is legitimate or illegitimate, or indeed whether Egypt should terminate its illegal practices. The illegality of Egypt's conduct and her obligation to abandon it have already been clearly determined. The main task now is to devise measures for the prompt fulfillment of the Council's decision so as to safeguard the freedom of international waterways from abusive interferences based on claims of belligerency, and to secure Egypt's respect for its obligations under the General Armistice Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations.

Accordingly, the Government of Israel requests the Security Council to bring about the immediate and total cessation of all

belligerent practices and restrictions both in the Suez Canal and in the Gulf of Elath. We urge the Council to safeguard its own dignity by rescuing its previously adopted Resolution from contempt. We consider that the Security Council cannot pass, without the strongest censure, over the fact that its verdict has already been defied for so long. We hold that on this occasion the Security Council should not be content with a vigorous expression of its desire which, I am certain, will be forthcoming, but that it should also establish such machineries and procedures as will enable it to follow up the course of its Resolutions and to receive regular reports on the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of its behest. In calling for the total cancellation of all these restrictions, old and new, which have already been the subject of the Security Council's categorical opposition, my Government dedicates itself to the prosecution of this case to its ultimate limit.

The continuation of a hostile act, based on the assertion of a state of war, in prolonged and deliberate defiance of a Security Council Resolution, clearly creates the kind of situation to which the enforcement measures laid down in Chapter VII of the Charter should apply. My Government believes that the Security Council should take such measures in response to Egypt's violation, unless it receives assurance in this debate that the restrictions will be immediately cancelled.

We reserve the right to engage the constant attention of the Security Council in this matter until such time as these restrictions are totally abandoned. Their abolition will be an event of high importance bringing satisfaction to the world community, high credit and advantage to Egypt, and blessed relief to the security and welfare of the Middle East.

APPENDIX

JOINT DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION PRESENTED BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

15 August 1951

The Security Council,

S/2206/Rev.1

1. *Recalling* that in its resolution of 11 August 1949 relating to the conclusion of Armistice Agreements between Israel and the neighbouring Arab States it drew attention to the pledges in these Agreements against further acts of hostility between the parties.

2. *Recalling* further that in its resolution of 17 November 1950 it reminded the States concerned that the Armistice Agreements to which they are parties contemplate the return to permanent peace in Palestine, and therefore urged them and other States in the area to take all such steps as will lead to the settlement of the issues between them;

3. *Noting* the report of the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organisation to the Security Council of 12 June 1951;

4. *Further noting* that the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organisation recalled the statement of the senior Egyptian delegate in Rhodes on 15 January 1949 to the effect that his delegation was inspired with every spirit of cooperation, conciliation, and a sincere desire to restore peace in Palestine, and that the Egyptian Government have not complied with the earnest plea of the Chief of Staff made to the Egyptian delegate on 12 June 1951, that they desist from the present practice of interfering with the passage through the Suez Canal of goods destined for Israel;

5. *Considering* that since the Armistice regime which has been in existence for nearly two and a half years is of a permanent character, neither party can reasonably assert that it is actively a belligerent or requires to exercise the right of visit, search, and seizure for any legitimate purpose of self-defence;

6. *Finds* that the maintenance of the practice mentioned in paragraph 4 above is inconsistent with the objectives of a peaceful settlement between the parties and the establishment of a permanent peace in Palestine set forth in the Armistice Agreement;

7. *Finds further* that such practice is an abuse of the exercise of the right of visit, search and seizure;

8. *Further finds* that that practice cannot in the prevailing circumstances be justified on the grounds that it is necessary for self-defence;

9. *And further noting* that the restrictions on the passage of goods through the Suez Canal to Israeli ports are denying to nations at no time connected with the conflict in Palestine valuable supplies required for their economic reconstruction, and that these restrictions together with sanctions applied by Egypt to certain ships which have visited Israeli ports represent unjustified interference with the rights of nations to navigate the seas and to trade freely with one another, including the Arab States and Israel;

10. *Calls upon Egypt* to terminate the restrictions on the passage of international commercial shipping and goods through the Suez Canal wherever bound and to cease all interference with such shipping beyond that essential to the safety of shipping in the Canal itself and to the observance of the international conventions in force.

little against communism. Arab hostility to the U.S. because of so-called favored treatment of Israel, must be allayed.

American arms to the Arab countries will fortify a strategic area against Communist attack, and secure the essential supply of oil to the West.

- Against Arms to the Arabs: Peace and stability are primary U.S. and UN goals. Until existing tensions are removed, it is impossible to organize an effective defense against communism in the Middle East.

Arms sent them before peace in the Middle East has been achieved will only fortify their refusal to accept realistically the existence of Israel.

The Arab states need help to improve their standards of living and political outlook before they can become allies of the Democratic world.

The most effective means of protecting United States interests are:

1. Continued diplomatic pressure by the U.S. and the UN to bring about a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Arab states.
2. Continued economic and technological assistance by the U.S. and the UN to overcome poverty, disease, illiteracy, political oppression and other social ills which have plagued the peoples of the troubled area for centuries.



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March 1954

THE



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March, 1954

Dear Friends:

In line with the American Jewish Committee's long-established practice of providing factual information on current issues affecting intergroup relations, we are happy to send you the attached Fact Sheet on Arab-Israel Tensions.

Heated public debate concerning Arab-Israel problems now ranges between two extremes that are poles apart. In this situation the American Jewish Committee takes a position which is based on a measured appraisal of all the facts, and which represents, we believe, a realistic and constructive approach. We maintain that Israel's continued existence must be assured and that its people should be given opportunity to live in peace, and develop the nation's industrial and cultural potentials. We regard these objectives as fully consonant with the best interests of the United States and of the free world as a whole. Attainment of these objectives also will benefit Israel's Arab neighbors, whose legitimate interests must be taken into account in any peace settlement.

It is our belief that if the basic facts are freed from partisan propaganda and presented fairly to the American people, public opinion will crystallize in support of a consistent policy of our Government, pursued for the purpose of bringing about a permanent and just peace in the Middle East.

This Fact Sheet is offered in the hope that it will be a contribution to this end.

Should you desire further information, we will do our utmost to meet your request.

Tear sheets or copies of any publications utilizing the enclosed material will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Blawson
Executive Vice-President

ARAB-ISRAEL TENSIONS

A FACT SHEET

In the continuing struggle between the free and the Communist worlds, both sides look anxiously to the Middle East. Here lie strategic waterways -- the Nile, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, the harbors of modern Israel. Here are vast oil reserves and incalculable wealth in untapped natural resources. Here, too, is the world's newest democracy, celebrating its sixth birthday in May 1954.

With even a single decade of peaceful cooperation, the peoples of the Middle East could transform their underdeveloped wastelands into the prosperous tradeways of Biblical days. But there is no peace.

In November 1947, the United Nations voted to partition Palestine into independent Jewish and Arab states. Almost before the ink was dry on Israel's Declaration of Independence, the armies of the Arab League pushed across the newly-created boundaries, determined to erase the UN decision by force. In the six months of bitter warfare that followed, Israel thrust back the invaders.

During the first six months of 1949, the herculean efforts of UN Mediator Ralph Bunche achieved armistice agreements between Israel and her bordering neighbors. But it has been an uneasy armistice, marked by frequent border clashes, economic boycott, constant recriminations and mounting tensions.

To Arabs and Israelis alike, these tensions spell postponement of social and economic progress. To Christians the world over, they spell a continued violation of the spirit of the Holy Land. To the Kremlin, they spell opportunity for political exploitation. To the western nations, they spell trouble -- threatening to explode at any moment and spark the flames of war.

What are the basic issues which have kept the Middle East in the headlines? What do they mean -- to the Arabs ... the Israelis ... the United Nations ... the United States? The facts below may help to answer these questions.

MAJOR ISSUES CONTRIBUTING TO TENSION

Failure to Negotiate

Today, as for the past six years, Arab leaders refuse to negotiate peace with

Israel:

-- Kamil Chaunoun, President of Lebanon, March 1952.¹

"It is impossible to discuss the possibility of peace

with Israel, even in principle."

-- Mohammed Naguib, President of Egypt, June 1953.²

"The only solution is Israel's disappearance."

-- Fawzi Mu'ikl, Prime Minister of Jordan, November 1953.³

"Jordan's policy will continue to be 'no peace with Israel.'"

-- King Saud of Saudi Arabia, January 1954.⁴

"Israel is like a cancer to the human body, and the only way of remedy is to uproot it We Arabs total about 50 million. Why don't we sacrifice 10 million of our number and live in pride and self-respect?"

On November 23, 1953, after the Kibya incident exposed to the world the tragic

deterioration of the Israel-Jordan armistice, Abba Eban, Israeli Ambassador to the UN,

invoked Article XII of the armistice agreement, which directs the Secretary-General to

call a conference at the request of either party. Mr. Eban stated:

"In view of the acute tension on the Israel-Jordan frontier it is necessary

to act swiftly to prevent the further impairment of peace and security

Nothing short of direct and immediate negotiation can avail to that end."

On January 23, 1954, Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the UN, announced

his willingness to serve as "catalyst" for an Israel-Jordan conference. Thus far, Jordan

has twice rejected his call for a meeting, claiming that existing machinery is adequate

to deal with local disputes. Israel, however, maintains that a conference is needed to

explore the entire situation if repeated incidents are to be avoided.

¹ Al-Jazeera (Amman, Jordan), March 4, 1952.
² Al-Yakazah (Cairo, Egypt), June 1953.
³ New York Times, November 15, 1953.
⁴ New York Times, January 10, 1954.

Boycott

The Arabs have maintained a strict boycott of imports from, and exports to, Israel. Israel's grain and other foodstuffs must be imported from Europe; oil from distant Venezuela. This economic hardship also affects the citizens of the Arab states who lose new markets opened up by Israel's developing industries and deprive themselves of the chance to improve their living standards.

Closely related to the Arab boycott of Israel is Egypt's blockade of shipments bound for Israel through the Suez Canal. Involved in this action is the international issue of whether Egypt may legitimately prevent any nation from using the Canal. In 1951, on Israel's complaint, the Security Council voted to order the blockade ended. Egyptian leaders have contended, however, that since a state of war with Israel still exists, Egypt is justified in preventing "contraband materials" from reaching her enemies.

In January 1954, Israel lodged a new complaint with the UN, terming the continued blockade of the Suez Canal by Egypt "a unilateral act of war." The Security Council agreed on February 4, 1954, to consider both the Israel complaint and a later Egyptian charge that Israel had violated armistice provisions in the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

Border Incidents

In the absence of peace negotiations, armed clashes, such as the widely deplored Kibya incident, become more frequent. As the New York Herald Tribune declared editorially on October 18, 1953, Kibya was "the climax of a series of tragic episodes along that contested frontier [between Israel and Jordan]. Its basic cause is the inability of the Israelis and Arabs to transform an armistice into a genuine peace, and that, in turn, stems from the unwillingness of the Arab states to recognize Israel as a permanent fact in the Near East."

Most incidents occur on the Israel-Jordan border. On Jordan's side, refugee camps house hundreds of thousands of Arabs, whose former homes are in Israel and who regard the Israelis as usurpers. Many try to recross the border in hopes of resettling. Others are primarily bent on smuggling, stealing, or acts of vengeance. Israel claims that some

of these refugee crossings are promoted by the Arab League to harass isolated Israeli villages. Whatever the motivation, these intruders have provoked many border incidents and have terrorized the Israeli frontier farmers. Their situation has been compared with that of the American frontiersmen who slept with firearms under their pillows in readiness for Indian raids. Often, Arab violations of the border have provoked retaliatory Israeli raids.

For a twelve-month period ending June 1953, the United Nations Mixed Armistice Commission adjudicated 184 cases of border violence, ruling against Jordan in 159 cases and against Israel in 25.

Arab Refugees

When the Arabs attacked the newly-created nation, many Palestine Arabs left their homes. Soon, entire Arab villages in Israel were evacuated, often with the help of the British. Arab leaders encouraged these moves, assuring the Palestine Arabs that they would shortly return victorious. Brutal destruction of an Arab village, Deir Yassin, by Israeli terrorists in April 1948, and the withdrawal of the British from Palestine, further expedited the Arab exodus.

When the Arab states failed to "push Israel into the sea," some 650,000 Palestine Arabs were left stranded. For the past five years, this number has been increasing, swelled by 25,000 births per year and by applicants for relief from the Arab states. Today, about 850,000 refugees, miserable and without hope, live in makeshift camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt-held Gaza, where they remain a burden on United Nations relief operations and the local point of tension in the Middle East. The Arab states refuse to absorb them; Israel refuses to permit their return; and the United Nations refuses to do so at the earliest practicable date and that compensation should be paid for the property of those not choosing to return.... "Under no circumstances should compensation be paid to those who have chosen to remain in the Arab states." The present UN position and those of the other interested parties may be summed up as follows:

-- The United Nations: Supplementary Report of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, 1950 --

"Concentration /should be laid/ on resettlement in the Arab countries, with both the technical and financial assistance of the United Nations and coupled with payment of compensation for their property."

-- The Arab States: Israel must agree to repatriate all Arab refugees. Without this agreement, there can be no peace negotiations.

This position has been candidly explained by the leading Egyptian daily, Al Misri, which declared, on May 7, 1952:

"Arab statesmen believe that any solution of the refugee problem not involving their return to their country of origin will deprive them of their last means of pressure upon the Western powers The solution which Arab statesmen are afraid to reveal and which the /Arab/ League shrinks from facing is well known: The sole solution to the refugee question is the opening of the gates of the Arab countries and the settlement of the refugees in them."

-- Israel: Repatriation would invite invasion by a hostile population over half the size of Israel's present citizenry. Moreover, Israel has already admitted about three quarters of a million Jewish refugees from Europe, Iraq, Yemen and other North African communities; any additional large-scale influx would place an intolerable strain on the nation's economy. However, the Government is prepared to pay reasonable compensation into an international resettlement fund.

On August 3, 1949, the Israel representative told the United Nations that, in view of the above considerations, his government was prepared to accept 100,000 Arab refugees. The offer was rejected by the Arab states. However, several thousand Arabs have been permitted to re-enter Israel, under the government's program to reunite Arab families. In addition, about 28,000 of the more than 40,000 Arabs who re-entered Israel without permission have had their status legalized.

-- The United States: Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, June 1, 1953:

"Some of these /Arab/ refugees could be resettled in the area presently controlled by Israel. Most, however, could more readily be integrated into the lives of the neighboring Arab communities."

Report of the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on the Near East, July 24, 1953:

"Apart from any action taken by Israel, the Arab states should develop definite proposals for refugee self-employment and rehabilitation on the side of Israel The Sub-Committee does not believe that the Arab nations can escape the responsibility to their fellow Arabs by failing to cooperate fully with the United Nations in projects designed to resettle refugees...."

Recommendations of the House Foreign Relations Sub-Committee, February 13, 1954, following an official mission to the Middle East by Representatives Lawrence H. Smith (R., Wis.) and Winston L. Proulx (R., Vt.):

"That something be done to induce the Arab refugees to work out a solution of their problem.
That the refugees become citizens of the Arab states and, if necessary, be made wards of Arab governments pending their admittance to citizenship.
That responsibility for the program be transferred to the Arab states.

That a warning be given that the United States would give no further aid to refugees who did not conform to the program.
That the United States consider cutting off financial aid to nations that did not comply with United Nations decisions.

That the United Nations serve notice that it would not support a return of the Arab refugees to their homes in Palestine under existing conditions.
That the United States press for compensation by Israel to Arab refugees for homes and other property lost through seizure.

The mission suggested that the United States press for a lifting of the blockade of Israel by the Arab states, and urge the Arab states to end their boycott against Israel and United States companies doing business with Israel.
-- Great Britain: Lord MacDonal, British Representative at the UN, November 29, 1950:

"It is the considered view of the United Kingdom delegation that the Arab refugees would have a happier and more stable future if the bulk of them were resettled in Arab countries."

New York Times, February 14, 1954

When the Arab armies attacked Israel, it was with the declared intention of wiping the nation off the map. But when the guns were silenced, the Arabs found themselves pushed back beyond the original borders, leaving Israel in control of more territory than the UN Partition had allocated. These new boundaries were officially recognized in the armistice agreements between Israel and the various Arab states.

A Tripartite Declaration by the United Kingdom, France and the United States, issued May 22, 1948, pledged the three powers to prevent violation of the new borders.

- The Arab View: Israel must withdraw to the boundaries set by the original UN Partition. The United Nations must guarantee that Israel will not seek territorial expansion. Both of these conditions are prerequisites to peace talks.
- The Israel View: The boundaries originally laid down by the UN Partition were not disputed. Additional territory was not gained by aggressive action on the part of Israel, but rather in the process of repulsing an invading army bent on total destruction of the nation. Land won by citizens who died to defend their country should remain a part of Israel.

The Jordan Valley Project

The proper harnessing and utilization of water is an absolute "must" if the Middle East is to become productive and self sufficient. The region's water resources are not abundant, many rivers flow through more than one country. Thus, any plans for expansion or diversion of water must be made by mutual agreement.

According to American and United Nations experts, water for irrigation and electricity could be most effectively secured through the development of a Jordan Valley Authority. Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, former Assistant Chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, worked out a comprehensive plan for such a project some ten years ago. Israel, with its growing industries and its efforts to cultivate land that has lain arid for centuries, has been most eager to proceed with this plan.

In 1953, recognizing that Arab-Israeli relations made cooperation toward this end

impossible. Israel began operations to harness the Jordan River for a hydro-electric

project. A dispute flared at once.

-- The Arab View: The UN should force Israel to halt work on this project because

it would divert water from Arab lands.

In response to an official complaint which Syria lodged with the UN in 1953,

Major-General Bennike of Denmark, Chief of Staff of the UN Truce Supervision

Organization in Palestine, ordered Israel to cease work pending agreement with

Syria.

-- The Israel View: Compliance with Major-General Bennike's order would be

tantamount to granting Syria the power to dictate Israel's actions.

However, in October 1953, Israel agreed to suspend draining operations

while the UN investigated the Syrian complaint. A UN resolution, permitting

Israel to resume work in the event that Major-General Bennike should find no

violation of Syria's rights, was proposed by the United States, England and

France. On January 22, 1954, this resolution was vetoed by the Soviet Union.

In view of the majority vote in her favor, Israel decided to resume the pro-

ject as soon as Major-General Bennike's permission could be secured. Mean-

while, Israel prepared to guarantee the protection of all private Arab land and

water rights which might be affected by diversion of Jordan waters.

-- The U.S. View: On October 20, 1953, the State Department announced that it

was withholding U.S. grants-in-aid to Israel because of failure to comply with

Major-General Bennike's cease-work order. However, when Israel agreed to

halt draining operations pending United Nations investigation, the State Depart-

ment withdrew its ban.

At the same time, Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal repre-

sentative, visited the Middle East in an effort to persuade the Arab states and

Israel to undertake cooperatively a proposed project prepared by the Tennessee

Valley Authority. This plan, designed to harness the waters of the Jordan, was

requested by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, which asked TVA to "disregard political boundaries and to prepare a report indicating the most efficient method of utilizing the whole of the watershed in the best interests of the area."

Explaining Mr. Johnston's mission, President Eisenhower stated:

"It is my conviction that acceptance of a comprehensive plan for the development of the Jordan Valley would contribute greatly to stability in the Near East, and to general economic progress of the region. I have asked Mr. Johnston to explain this position to the states concerned, seek their cooperation, and help them through whatever means he finds advisable."

Israel has indicated her willingness to discuss the details of the UN-TVA plan. The Arab states have thus far refused.

Internationalization of Jerusalem

Because of Jerusalem's particular historic importance to three of the world's religions, the UN Partition called for internationalization of the city to insure protection of, and free access to, all Holy Places. Israel, which holds the New City of Jerusalem, and Jordan, which rules the Old City, equally oppose this plan, although some of the Arab League countries favor it.

The Israeli's look upon Jerusalem as their traditional capital. Therefore, the government has been gradually transferring its departments from Tel Aviv to the New City which is now considered Israel's seat of government, although a number of embassies, including that of the United States, still remain in Tel Aviv.

The section of Jerusalem controlled by Israel holds only three Holy places -- one Christian, one Jewish and one Moslem. The great majority of the shrines -- fifteen Christian, three Moslem and five Jewish -- are in Old Jerusalem under Jordan rule.

While rejecting internationalization of Jerusalem, Israel has agreed to full international supervision and control of the Holy places themselves. Jordan is willing to permit occasional UN inspection.

-- UN Proposals: In 1950, the General Assembly discussed two draft resolutions on Jerusalem. One, submitted by Belgium and endorsed by the Arab states,

-- For Arms to the Arabs: The U.S. needs the friendship of the Arab world in the

countries technically at war with one another. should aid the economic and social development of the entire area instead of arming violence since the Arabs might use these weapons to attack Israel; the United States sists Communist aggression. The other maintains that sending arms might provoke new United States security is best served by arming the Arab countries so that they can re- Public opinion on this subject falls into two general schools. One believes that orbit has been hotly debated in this country for many years.

The question of how to prevent this strategic area from falling into the Communist Middle East is of vital concern to the United States. As the gateway to Asia and Africa, as the repository of 51% of the world's known oil reserves, and as a focal point of Communist propaganda and political expansion, the

Arms to the Middle East. No further UN efforts have been made to settle the question.

forty, the Swedish plan was not submitted to a vote. of the Assembly, however, when the Belgian Resolution failed to obtain a ma- valuable contribution to the solution of the problem." At the Plenary meeting Swedish resolution represented. In the eyes of the United States delegation, a to supervise and protect the holy places and allow free access to them. The the U.S., the United Kingdom and Uruguay. It provided for a UN commission. The second draft resolution was submitted by Sweden, with amendments by had proved fruitless. that "there was no advantage in the Belgian plan; it advocated a process which

and England and many other countries. The United States delegate declared resolution adopted by the assembly. This resolution was opposed by the United States with the exception of Jordan, called for new efforts to settle the question in accordance with principles already adopted by the assembly. meaning later- nization of the city. This resolution was opposed by the United States

THE MIDDLE EAST

IN FACTS AND FIGURES

OIL ROYALTIES

IRAQ	\$120,000,000 (1952)
SAUDI ARABIA	\$170,000,000 (1952)

Note: Revenue from oil does not include income for three British protectorates in the Persian Gulf (Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar), estimated at over \$154,000,000 annually.

WORLD WAR II RECORD

EGYPT	Neutral until 1945.
IRAQ	Declared war on Allies, 1941; Joined Allies, 1943. Under Vichy French control until 1941.
LEBANON	Italian colony.
LIBYA	Declared war on Germany, 1939.
JORDAN	Neutral until 1945.
SAUDI ARABIA	Under Vichy French control until 1941.
SYRIA	Neutral until 1945.
YEMEN	Neutral until 1945.
ISRAEL	43,000 Palestinian Jews served with British forces.

CONCLUSIONS

- On the basis of the above data, the following conclusions can be drawn:
1. There exist vast tracts of cultivable land in the Middle East, notably in Iraq and Syria, which can be used to settle a great increase in population.
 2. Proper utilization of water could irrigate millions of additional acres, provide immense quantities of electricity, and raise the standard of living in most nations from its present low level.
 3. Low standards of health and education in Arab countries stem in large measure from the disproportionate distribution of wealth and land now concentrated in the hands of a small percentage of the population. Reform of land tenure is an urgent priority for the Middle East.

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THE ARAB LEAGUE AND ISRAEL

The Middle East occupies a position of great economic and strategic importance in the modern world. It is a land bridge between continents, a man of international communications, and reservoir of vast oil deposits. It is also an area of rivalry and conflict between Great Powers, of internal instability and external tensions. At the heart of the region are eight independent Arab nations and the State of Israel. Following are some basic facts and figures about these nine countries, essential to the understanding of the problems of the Middle East.

AREA AND POPULATION

	SQUARE MILES	POPULATION	POPULATION PER SQ. MI.
EGYPT	386,000	20,750,000	53
IRAQ	116,000	5,100,000	44
JORDAN	39,000	1,250,000	35.4
LEBANON	4,000	1,285,000	323
LIBYA	1,100,000	1,340,000	1.025
SAUDI ARABIA	870,000	6,500,000	7.7
SYRIA	72,000	3,300,000	45
YEMEN	75,000	4,500,000	60
ARAB LEAGUE TOTAL	2,662,000	44,025,000	17
ISRAEL	8,000	1,600,000 (180,000 Arabs)	200

	LAND CULTIVABLE (sq. mi.)	LAND CULTIVATED	LAND OWNERSHIP
EGYPT	18,000	13,500	0.5% of population owns 38% of land
IRAQ	47,000	17,000	1.5% owns 80%
JORDAN	Unknown	1,875	15% owns 65%
LEBANON	1,800	800	Unknown
LIBYA	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SAUDI ARABIA	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SYRIA	20,500	9,000	Unknown
YEMEN	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
ISRAEL	3,500	1,600	Jewish National Fund holds half cultivated area

(Statistical information is generally unavailable for Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates approximately half of the total land area of the Middle East could be cultivated if irrigated.)

INCOME

	PER CAPITA INCOME	GOVT. EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA
EGYPT	\$ 100	\$ 22
IRAQ	85	18
LEBANON	125	20
LIBYA	32	Unknown
SAUDI ARABIA	40	Unknown
SYRIA	100	9
JORDAN	90	16
YEMEN	40	Unknown
ISRAEL	390	218

FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND DATE OF INDEPENDENCE

EGYPT	Republic under military dictatorship; 1922
IRAQ	Constitutional Monarchy, Women cannot vote; 1932
JORDAN	Constitutional Monarchy, Women cannot vote; 1946
LEBANON	Republic; 1941
LIBYA	Constitutional Monarchy, 1952
SAUDI ARABIA	Absolute Monarchy; 1926
SYRIA	Republic under military dictatorship; 1941
YEMEN	Absolute Monarchy; 1934
ISRAEL	Republic, universal suffrage, 1948

RIVERS

EGYPT	Nile
IRAQ	Tigris, Euphrates
LEBANON	Orontes, Litani
LIBYA	None
SAUDI ARABIA	None
SYRIA	Tigris, Euphrates, Orontes
JORDAN	Jordan, Yarmuk
YEMEN	None
ISRAEL	Jordan

USE OF WATER POWER (Developed and/or Planned)

EGYPT	Electricity from dam at Aswan
IRAQ	Euphrates dam
LEBANON	Litani dam (incomplete)
LIBYA	None
SAUDI ARABIA	None
SYRIA	Orontes dam
JORDAN	Yarmuk development (incomplete)
YEMEN	None
ISRAEL	Projected Jordan power plant



EDUCATION

	LITERACY	SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS	NO. DAILY NEWS-PAPERS AVAILABLE (per 1000 inhabitants)
EGYPT	25%	40.4%	17
IRAQ	5-10%	20%	10
JORDAN	Unknown	28%	Unknown
LEBANON	45%	60%	81
LIBYA	4%	3.4%	Unknown
SAUDI ARABIA	2%	1%	None
SYRIA	Unknown	35%	19
YEMEN	2%	Unknown	None
ISRAEL	96%	99%	235

Note: With the exception of Israel, less than 5% of children receive a secondary education.

HEALTH

	NO. INHABITANTS PER DOCTOR	INFANT MORTALITY (Per 1000)	DEATHS (Per 1000)	LIFE EXPECTANCY
EGYPT	5,000	200	28.7	30 yrs.
IRAQ	7,000	350	Unknown	30 yrs.
JORDAN	6,000	200	19	Unknown
LEBANON	1,500	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
LIBYA	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SAUDI ARABIA	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SYRIA	4,500	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
YEMEN	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
ISRAEL	380	38	6.8	67 yrs.

March, 1954

Haifa - "City of the Future"

Haifa's 190,000 citizens, Jews and Arabs alike, have adopted this slogan, and are working hard to bring the city's future closer — sooner.

Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor, is taking the initiative in making the dream come true. Histadrut's 124,000 members in Haifa make up 61.8 per cent of the city's population as against 53 per cent in Jerusalem and 40 per cent in Tel Aviv. Haifa's reputation as a solid labor town has been earned. In 1948 there were only 43,000 Histadrut members — an increase in five years of more than 150 per cent.

Famed since antiquity for her natural beauty, Haifa is built on the site of a seaside village that has been continuously settled for seventeen centuries. More recently, however, Haifa has expanded. She has climbed up the slopes of Mt. Carmel, rich in Biblical lore, where the "Place of Burning" commemorates the triumph of the Prophet Elijah over the priests of Baal. On this mountain, too, is the Carmelite Monastery, founded in 1156. The city extends from sea level at the coast line all the way up to the mountain peaks, providing vistas of great beauty.

Haifa's present overshadows her past. She is noted particularly for two things: her port and her industry. Her deep-sea harbor accommodates the world's great liners. The large bay is relatively free from storms, and offers safe shelter to ships all year round — the best deep-sea port in the eastern Mediterranean. Through this gateway have arrived seven out of every ten of the 700,000 immigrants who have streamed into Israel since the state was established in 1948. Many of the new immigrants settled in and around Haifa. They hail from 37 different countries and speak 29 languages.

Haifa is the home port of Israel's growing merchant marine. It serves the Israel Navy. Israel is landlocked, with hostile Arab states on all her borders; Haifa is her chief link with the outside world. Haifa gives Israel her freedom of the seas.

Expanding Industry

The busy port has given impetus to Haifa's status as Israel's industrial center. Israel's key industries have grown and developed in this area: cement, iron and steel works, glass factories, oil refineries, the basic chemical manufacturing plants.

Among Israel's biggest industrial plants are the Nesher Cement Works with almost 1,000 workers and a production of about half a million tons of

cement a year; the Vulcan Foundries, producing machinery and other equipment; the Phoenix Glass Works; the Middle East Tube Co. manufacturing welded iron pipes, seamless galvanized pipes and similar products; steel rolling mills; a chemical fertilizer plant; and many others. Some of these are the largest of their kind in the Middle East, and many produce for export. Histadrut, through its cooperative and industrial enterprises, has been a pioneer in creating large segments of Haifa's industry.

Foreign firms have been quick to see the industrial and commercial possibilities of the Haifa area. Several years ago, for instance, Kaiser-Frazer opened an assembly plant in Haifa Bay, and cars assembled in Israel are now exported to Turkey, Finland and other countries.

Local Set-Up of Histadrut

Both in the port and in industry, nearly all the workers are members of Histadrut. The nerve center of Haifa's labor movement is located in Histadrut's new six-story building in the heart of town. The present secretary is Joseph Almogi, while his predecessor, Abba Hushi, is now mayor of Haifa. Brother Almogi has five colleagues on the secretariat, which meets twice weekly. They are assisted by a 21-man Executive Board which meets once a month. The Board members are elected by the workers, and unions whose representatives are not elected to the Board send observers to the monthly meetings. Routine business is conducted by the various Labor Council's departments, where 109 permanent officials are employed. The Council's annual budget is about \$800,000.

A breakdown of Histadrut's membership gives a clue to Haifa's economy. Histadrut members include 10,000 employed in the clerical professions; 7,000 in the metal trades; 5,500 in the building trades; 4,800 in civil service; 3,200 in the chemical industries; 3,000 in the needle trades; 2,100 in Haifa Port; 2,000 in services; 1,650 in food industries; 1,500 doctors and medical employees; 1,350 engineers and architects; 1,300 railway employees; and 7,800 are unskilled workers.

Because the sudden influx of immigrants swelled the city's population and the ranks of Histadrut, the housing shortage became severe. To offset this, Histadrut launched a workers' housing program through its housing corporation and built a number of workers' suburbs surrounding the city.

Haifa has 51 cooperatively owned and operated stores, the largest of which, a cooperative department store, is situated in Histadrut House itself.

Histadrut's Sick Fund and health insurance scheme has about



Histadrut workers' suburb in Haifa with bay in background

50 health centers in and around Haifa and provides full medical services for the members of Histadrut and their families. The Sick Fund in Haifa employs 235 doctors, 258 nurses, 103 dentists and 54 pharmacists, and 313 administrative personnel and others.

In Haifa, as elsewhere in Israel, Histadrut is also active in the fields of social welfare and culture. The Workingwomen's Council maintains a number of children's homes, particularly for the children of working mothers and for retarded children. Here 2,600 children are cared for. There are many Histadrut libraries and reading rooms throughout the city and a few auditoriums where various cultural activities take place.

Arab Workers Organized in Histadrut

The first attempt in the entire country to organize Arab workers was made in Haifa, back in 1927 when the British were still in power. Mayor Hushi, then the secretary of the Haifa Labor Council, pioneered in establishing good relations with the Arab workers. Even before the State of Israel was created, there were many plants where Jew and Arab worked side by side. When Jewish leaders were arrested by the British in 1946, Hushi was sheltered by the inhabitants of an Arab village on Mt. Carmel. As Haifa's Mayor, he has consistently striven to foster cordiality and amity among Jewish and Arab workers.



Mayor Hushi with Arab villagers

Because Haifa is Israel's most labor-conscious town, it is only natural that Histadrut should have taken the lead in her development. Haifa's citizens, led by Histadrut, have come to typify all that is best in the Israeli tradition of hard work and energy. "The City of the Future" is not an empty slogan — Haifa's development is so rapid that frequently the present catches up with the future. This development illustrates clearly what a labor movement can do when it is given the opportunity.

Fraternaly yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:ll
oeiu:153

General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Haardim)
EXECUTIVE BOARD
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

HISTADRUT HOUSE
13 East 67th Street
Tel.: REgent 4-6010

הסתדרות הכללית של העובדים העברים בארץ ישראל
הוועד הפועל

נציגות באמריקה
ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

February 25, 1954

Miss Anne Watkins
Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters
100 Indiana Ave., NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Anne:

I wish to thank you for the arrangements you made for me in Seattle. I had a wonderful meeting with the labor council members and Griffin, Carr and Mentrin were very nice to me.

I think the credit for bringing news of labor Israel to Seattle goes to you.

Best regards to your husband.

Sincerely yours,

Moshe

Moshe Bitan

mbill

Labor in Israel

VOLUME TWO - NUMBER TWO

February, 1954

Hanoar Haoved - Junior Trade Union

Israel's young apprentices have their own unique trade union affiliated with Histadrut (Israel's Federation of Labor).

This junior trade union, known as Hanoar Haoved (Working Youth), protects the wages, hours and working conditions of its 35,000 young wage earners. They enjoy the same benefits of trade union membership as their fathers and older brothers, plus a few which their elders do not have.

Hanoar Haoved is consulted by the government in the enforcement of the new Apprenticeship Law, which requires employers to hire apprentices to replenish the country's reservoir of skilled manpower. The wages of apprentices are regulated by a committee on which Hanoar Haoved as well as the employers are represented.



Adult worker training apprentices.

The law forbids employers to accept any payment for training these apprentices, and the Government Apprenticeship Officer can forbid any employer to hire apprentices if working conditions are unsuitable. The employer must appoint an older worker to be responsible for the young learner during his apprenticeship, and the apprentice must be put to work only on jobs which will help him to master the trade he is learning. The employer must also give the apprentice time off from work, without deductions from pay, to attend a recognized trade school.

Hanoar Haoved is in many respects a junior edition of its parent body, the Histadrut, of which it is an integral part. When Histadrut was organized in British-mandated Palestine in 1921, the country had practically no labor legislation of any kind. There was hardly any legal protection for youngsters who had to work and no safeguard that they could continue to get a general education and vocational training.

It was to correct this situation that Hanoar Haoved was founded in 1924. Although part and parcel of Histadrut, it was given full autonomy in all matters affecting youth. These include vocational training, suitable employment, decent wages and proper working conditions.

Employment and Vocational Training

The organization runs its own employment service which finds suitable jobs for youth looking for work. Before they are assigned to jobs, however, they are invited to a vocational guidance center for aptitude tests.

Three thousand youngsters are now attending trade schools run by Hanoar Haoved after working hours, most of them concentrating on the metal trades. Two thousand members of Hanoar Haoved attend special high schools in the evenings, and more than 10,000 are attending evening elementary schools. These elementary schools were run by Hanoar Haoved until recently, but now that the State of Israel has been created, they are run by the Israel Government like daytime elementary schools.



Immigrant youth learning to use a drill at a Hanoar Haoved trade school.

Apprentice Hiring Laws

Hanoar Haoved has been instrumental in helping to get modern labor legislation passed by Israel's parliament.

The law now forbids the employment of children under 14, and bars boys and girls under 16 from work in hotels, dance halls, mental institutions and other unsuitable places. The law also empowers the government to forbid the employment of boys and girls under 18 in other places if it threatens their physical and mental development.

In addition to its 35,000 wage-earning members, Hanoar Haoved includes 13,000 other boys and girls who have joined for its many social and educational advantages and who are learning about trade unionism even before they go to work. Hanoar Haoved prepares them for the day they get jobs, when they become full-fledged trade unionists. Like Histadrut, Hanoar Haoved provides its members with the opportunity of spending the summer vacation at rural resorts. Like Histadrut, it gives its members many social and educational services. It aims to make its members good citizens as well as good trade unionists. Recently Histadrut accepted thousands of Arab workers as members, and Hanoar Haoved is now admitting about 1,000 Arab youths into its ranks.

Farm Settlements

There are 480 Hanoar Haoved branches throughout Israel — 160 in towns, villages and immigrants' transit camps and 320 on farm settlements. About 16,000 members of Hanoar Haoved hold jobs in towns, and about 19,000 live and work (usually only part-time) on farm settlements.

The younger members of Hanoar Haoved are organized in scout troops, while many of the older teen-agers are helped to join farm settlements or start their own. Fifty such settlements have already been created by Hanoar Haoved "graduates." About 2,000 teen-agers join settlements every year, either to get some farm training or as apprentices at the settlements' industrial plants. Of the Hanoar Haoved members who join the Army, about 400 a year choose the special units which combine farm training with the 30-month period of military service, later starting their own settlement when they are discharged.

Hanoar Haoved is particularly active in trying to organize youth among the new immigrants. Many of these youngsters have come from countries of Asia and Africa with unenviable records. Many of them were raised in the slums and bazaars of Oriental towns. Once in Israel, they are helped by Hanoar Haoved and its many services to lead honest and useful lives.

Labor movements in each country have to find answers for the burning questions which conditions in their countries pose. Each labor movement must tackle its own problems in its own way. Israel labor faces the major problem of integrating hundreds of thousands of new immigrants and transforming them into productive elements of a modern society. The activities of Hanoar Haoved are an important factor in this work.

Fraternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:ll
oaiur:153

General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Ha'ardim)
EXECUTIVE BOARD
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
Tel.: REcent 4-6010

הסתדרות הכללית של העובדים העברים בארץ ישראל

הוועד הפועל

נציגות באמריקה

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

X

X

January 12, 1954

Miss Anne Watkins
Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Watkins:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the telegram Mr. Bitan received from Charles J. Mentrin and a copy of Mr. Bitan's answer. This is for your information.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Lesser
Laura Lesser
Secretary to Moshe Bitan

11
enc.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 E. 67 St., NYC

Jan. 7, 1954

CHARLES J. MENTRIN
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL ROOM 201
LABOR TEMPLE 2600 FIRST AVE
SEATTLE, WASH.

SOBRY UNABLE TO MAKE ONE OF TWO PROPOSED DATES LUNCHEON CLUB ACCORDING TO MY
SCHEDULE AVAILABLE FOR MEETING SEATTLE ANYTIME FEBRUARY 11 AFTER 3PM THROUGH
FEBRUARY 13 THANK YOU FOR KIND COOPERATION WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY ANSWER
FRATERNALLY

MOSE BITAN

C
O
P
Y

MOSHE BITAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE EXECUTIVE
BOARD OF HISTADRUT IN ISRAEL HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 EAST 67 ST NYK

YOUR LETTER TO WILLIAM GRIFFIN SECRETARY TREASURER TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 353 SEATTLE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ME AS PUBLIC
RELATIONS DIRECTOR SEATTLE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OUR AF OF L
LUNCHEON CLUB MEETS ON FEBRUARY 3 AND FEBRUARY 17TH IF EITHER
OF THESE DATES MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE
YOU AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER AND BROTHER GRIFFIN WILL ACT AS
CHAIRMAN FOR THE LUNCHEON WE CAN ARRANGE A MEETING THE 11TH
OR 12TH OF FEBRUARY AS REQUESTED IN YOUR LETTER IF YOU
CANNOT MAKE OUR SUGGESTED DATES PLEASE WIRE REPLY FRATEERNALLY

CHARLES J MENTRIM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER CENTRAL
LABOR COUNCIL ROOM 201 LABOR TEMPLE 2800 FIRST AVE
SEATTLE

File

VOLUME TWO - NUMBER ONE

January, 1954

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1953.

WAGE RISE AVERTS STRIKE BY ISRAELIS

Manufacturers Agree to Extend
Cost-of-Living Accords—
410,000 Will Benefit

TEL AVIV, Israel, Dec. 20—An agreement between industry and labor extending the escalator system of pegging wages to the consumer-price index was announced last night. A strike threatened by the General Federation of Labor (Histadrut) earlier this week thus was averted.

The accord directly affects 410,000 employees in capitalist industrial enterprises, but the pay increases automatically will go to 350,000 other wage-earners, both organized and unorganized. Quarterly agreements between the Association of Manufacturers and the General Federation of Labor for the last fourteen years have been automatically fulfilled by all employers including the Government and other public bodies, farmers, public utilities and industrial enterprises promoted by the labor federation itself.

The new agreement contains a basic reform designed to rectify in part an acknowledged evil of the system—a tendency to level gross earnings despite differences in basic pay rates.

Scale of Payment Eased

In the future, rises in the consumer-price index will be compensated fully in basic monthly salaries of up to the equivalent of \$69.44 instead of \$44.44 as heretofore. However, full compensation will be paid only on index

rises since the last agreement, on Aug. 15, when the index was at 501 compared with the September, 1951, base of 100. Since the index rose seven points in the last quarter, a worker with a basic monthly salary of the equivalent of \$69.44 will receive a \$4.10 cost-of-living compensation for this, in addition to the \$1.88 that was the allowance under the old system. His gross monthly income thus will be the equivalent of \$119.08, while it would have been \$117.48 under the old system.

Although the agreement appeared to neutral observers to be a total surrender by industry, the manufacturers' association argued that it never really had questioned the justice of labor's position. What it had been trying to do, Shimon Klagsbald, chairman of the association's labor department, said tonight, was to force the Government to assume responsibility for spiraling wages, which the association regards as the main obstacle to price stabilization.

However, when the Cabinet declined earlier this week to adjudicate, there was no point in pursuing the struggle, Mr. Klagsbald said. He added that the trade unions had been "irresolute and considerate of the economic situation in the country."

The industrialists and trade unions now will turn to negotiating for a renewal of their collective agreements. Labor will desist from demanding basic increases except in the form of premiums for higher output. However, the industrialists will propose reforms designed mainly to permit employers to dismiss workers on the basis of efficiency, instead of seniority, as heretofore, and to expand the piece-work system.

The possibility of reform was viewed as remote. The labor federation, which adopted a wage-freeze policy after a hard fight with left-wing extremists, all find it difficult to make concessions to industry. This was acknowledged by the employers.

Principles of Wage Policy

Because the country is still economically weak, and because the worker's welfare is directly linked with the country as a whole, Histadrut's new wage policy is concerned with the economic problems of the nation as well as with the worker's immediate gain. Histadrut, like the rest of the nation, wants to see Israel achieve full economic recovery and full economic independence as quickly as possible. It has to reckon with the possibilities of each and every new industrial enterprise. If the trade union exaggerates its demands in terms of wages, benefits and hours of work, it may endanger the very existence of the particular enterprise. Histadrut has also to bear in mind that the dangers of inflation must be constantly fought. Prices must be stabilized. At the same time, the real value of wages must be maintained when prices go up. For the good of the worker and the entire country, Histadrut is for increased production, greater efficiency, better workmanship and higher exports.

Israel's economy is still in the process of consolidation. The worker, through his union, is therefore vitally interested in improving the economic conditions of the country as a whole, especially as he knows that his union is capable of seeing to it that he and his fellow-workers won't have to bear a disproportionate part of the economic burden which is distributed evenly among the entire population. Labor is not a privileged part of the community, but it certainly is not underprivileged. Today Israel is still consuming more than she can produce. She still imports more than she exports. There are many good reasons for this. One of them is the vast number of unskilled immigrants she has absorbed. Another is the high military expenditure needed to safeguard the borders against the surrounding countries which have so far stubbornly refused to discuss peace with Israel.

Collective Bargaining

Histadrut today bargains collectively with the employers, in some cases on a national trade scale with the particular branch of the Manufacturers Association. Histadrut today represents 80 per cent of all wage-earners throughout the country, in most industries more than 90 per cent. The struggle for collective bargaining was not an easy one and recognition for trade union rights did not come overnight. The formative years of our trade union movement were between 1927 and 1933.

This period is characterized as the beginning of the industrialization of the country and the emergence of various groups of skilled and qualified workers. The demand for such workers was great and in many Israeli enterprises the idea of trade unionism became the central and dominant factor. It is during this period that the employers began their struggle against the unions. The Histadrut entered this struggle with all its power and determination. It fought for recognition and for collective bargaining. Long and bitter strikes took place. I will mention only three famous strikes, which decided the question once and for all: the 1927 strike at the Mahir match factory, the strike at the Friedman-Eltstein textile factory and the strike at the Froumine Bakeries. The main factors in these strikes were economic and political. The employers refused to bargain collectively with their workers. There was also competition by a rival trade union

movement organized by a political party close to the employers' group. The outcome of these strikes was completely favorable to Histadrut and since then no attempt has been made to question the right of the Israel workers to organize in trade unions and bargain collectively.

Wage increases in 1954

Histadrut's policy for the coming year does not call for any increase in basic wages, but earnings will continue to rise in two ways: an escalator cost-of-living allowance and production premiums. Thus wages will continue to be adjusted to prices every three months by the sliding cost-of-living allowance based on the price index. The new agreement, as described in the New York Times of December 21, 1953, will rectify the present anomalous position whereby the wage differential between a highly skilled worker and an unskilled worker in a given trade is reduced to a minimum.

Workers will be able to raise their earnings by attaining higher standards of professional skill, thus entering higher grades at their plants. This is also necessary for the country as a whole, as it increases the chances for exports. Histadrut has offered to cooperate with any manufacturer who wants to raise his employers' standards of skill.

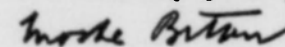
Many thousands of workers have also added to their pay packets by earning from 10 to 30 per cent above their basic pay in production premiums. Of a total of 173,000 wage-earners in agriculture, industry, transport and building, 70,000 (40 per cent) are now linked to incentive pay systems.

Because the workers bear a relatively high share of income taxes, Histadrut has asked the Government to exempt from income taxes all cost-of-living increases since March, 1953.

In line with its wage policy for 1954, Histadrut has instructed all its member trade unions to safeguard the social benefits which now form part of collective agreements and to extend them to those categories of workers who don't yet enjoy them. Social benefits vary from industry to industry and run on the average about 25 per cent of gross wages, but in some industries reach 40 per cent. They include paid holidays, paid maternity leave and employers' contributions to the health insurance plan.

The current agreement represents an important victory for Histadrut, as it came only after prolonged negotiations during which the Manufacturers Association refused to renew the cost-of-living agreement as was done every year since 1944. The second stage in Histadrut's wage policy for 1954 will now open with negotiations of the collective agreements in all trades for the coming year.

Faternally yours,



Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:ll
oaiur153

General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Meordim)
EXECUTIVE BOARD
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
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הסתדרות הכללית של העובדים העברים בארץ ישראל

הוועד הפועל

נציגות באמריקה

LOCAL ALTERNATIVE FILE

December 29, 1953

Miss Anne Watkins
Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters
100 Indiana Ave., NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Watkins:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I wrote to William Griffin today.

Sincerely,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan

mb:ll
enc.

Copy for Anne Watkins

December 29, 1953

Mr. William Griffin, Sec. Treas.
Teamsters, Local 353
552 Denny Way
Seattle 9, Washington

Dear Brother Griffin:

I heard from Anne Watkins that you were kind enough to agree to call a meeting of leading labor leaders in your city to meet with me either on February 11, 1954 after 3:00 PM in the afternoon or on February 12, 1954 in the morning.

Anne Watkins has probably told you that I was sent by my Federation of Labor to this country to establish fraternal contacts with the American labor movement and one of my objectives is to let American labor leaders know about Israel and about our labor movement in particular.

I am enclosing herewith the back copies of my Newsletter which you will receive regularly in the future. In these Newsletters you will find some information on our movement in Israel. I met the president of your international union a few weeks ago and I was very glad to find that he too was interested in our country and our labor movement.

I am very much looking forward to my trip to the West Coast, particularly as this is the first time I will be visiting this area.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to write to me, and I would appreciate it if you let me know at what time you have arranged the meeting.

Anne Watkins suggested that I ask you to make a reservation for me at a hotel in Seattle (she suggested the Olympic). I shall arrive on February 11.

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Fraternaly yours,

Moshe Eitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:ll

File
Wm Griffin
Local #353
DAVE BECK
General President



International Brotherhood of
**TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS** of America

LOCAL ADMIN. FILE /
353
X Griffin, Wm
X

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 100 INDIANA AVENUE NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON 1, D. C. • STerling 3-0525

AFFILIATED WITH
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Griffin R.H. Millenson Ex 450
70

Re 8-3/70

~~JK~~ JK Cong. Javits Office

*Copies of Bies to Waco's
office.*

Care Waco's office for Bies
month ago.

Mail Griffin material to Mr. R. H. Millenson
c/o Hon. J. K. Javits, M.C.
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Ma'ariv)
EXECUTIVE BOARD
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

התאחדות הכללית של העובדים בארץ ישראל
הוועד הפועל
בנינות באמריקה

HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
Tel.: REgent 4-6010

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut

X

X

December 10, 1953

Miss Ann Watkins
Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters
100 Indiana Ave., NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Watkins:

Enclosed please find the promised back copies of the Newsletter
(with the exception of #3, which is out of print) for Brother
Griffin in Seattle.

Thank you again for your kind cooperation regarding my trip to
Seattle and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards to your husband. I enjoyed taking to him very much.

Cordially yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan

mb:ll
enc.

*Moshe Bitan mailed material
direct to Miss Griffin, therefore,
has none for files.*

VOLUME ONE - NUMBER NINE

December, 1953

Vocational Training

Every one of the 750,000 immigrants who poured into Israel in the last five years is a consumer, and the country's consumption rate of manufactured goods has more than doubled. But only a tiny fraction of them were producers when they came, and the result was a badly unbalanced ratio of supply and demand. The country simply did not have enough skilled workers to produce the consumer goods needed by the population.

Industry needed both men and money. Since the State of Israel was created in 1948, a billion and a quarter dollars have entered the country as capital investment. But the growth of skills did not keep pace. Back in 1926, 57 per cent of new immigrants were skilled workers. In 1950, only 15 per cent of the newcomers were skilled, and this proportion has continued to this very day. There is consequently a drastic shortage of competent manpower in every branch of industrial production.

To supply the constantly increasing demand for skilled labor in industry, a nationwide program of vocational training was sponsored by the Ministry of Labor, the Histadrut (Israel's Federation of Labor), the Manufacturers Association and the Labor Exchanges (controlled by the unions). In the last two years, 20,000 unskilled men and women have attended training courses and have acquired industrial skills.

The first step in the training of the skilled worker is a full-time course on the basic elements of the skill being studied. These courses consist of seven hours of classroom instruction a week and forty hours of actual work at the trade. When he has completed this course, the worker has mastered the trade sufficiently to be able to get a job in industry.

Once he has begun to work in his new job, he can continue to study his skill in the evenings by attending advanced courses. These provide a staggered system of instruction from basic training through successive degrees of skill-improvement until the worker has reached the highest possible proficiency. Many an immigrant in Israel has completed his elementary training in a new skill and has then risen, helped by a succession of courses, to the highest levels in his trade.

Range of Courses

More than 100 different skills have been taught to immigrants. The most important of these have been the building trades (bricklayers, form-setters, iron-benders, plasterers, tillers, etc.); metal crafts and allied trades (locksmithy, tool-making, turning, riveting, welding); Diesel, auto-

mobile and aircraft repair; plumbing; electro-mechanics and radio-mechanics.

Hundreds of immigrants are now learning carpentry, both for construction work and for the furniture industry. Courses are given in the various branches of the catering trade, the clerical trades, printing, diamond cutting and polishing, and transport (including garage work, railway work and port work). The chief emphasis in the vocational training program has been placed on the building trades, the metal trades and clerical work: Of the courses, 25% are in the metal trades, 22% in the building trades, 20% in the clerical professions, 8% in nursing, 5% in carpentry trades and 20% in other trades.

Young men and women form the largest group attending these courses, and 36 per cent of all those who attended classes were under twenty-two. Of the others, 18 per cent were between 22 and 30, 12 per cent between 30 and 35, and the remainder were over 35. Almost half (46 per cent) were new immigrants from Oriental countries (such as Egypt, Iraq, Arabia and North Africa), while 33 per cent came from Eastern Europe, 4 per cent from the Balkans, and 10 per cent from other countries. Only seven per cent were natives of Israel.

Because of the low educational level of many of the new immigrants, and because almost none of them knew Hebrew (the language of Israel), special classes in Hebrew and elementary education are provided in the vocational training program.

Trade Schools

The vocational training program for adults is largely the financial responsibility of the Government. Histadrut is concentrating particularly on the tens of thousands of teen-age immigrants. Newcomers comprise more than half of Israel's population and two-thirds of Histadrut's membership. Almost all are unskilled. Histadrut is trying to transform them, especially the younger generation, into skilled workers to meet the needs of the country.

Histadrut trade schools, known as Amal schools, have already trained thousands of youngsters. At present, a thousand youngsters are registered in these schools. The oldest Amal school is in Tel Aviv, and was named in memory of Max Pine, the late veteran American labor leader.

The Max Pine School in Tel Aviv was founded in 1931 with the help of the National Committee for Labor Israel in the U.S. The International Trade School in Haifa was established with the help of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in the U.S. Another trade school, in Jerusalem, was established with the help of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. There are also eight other schools throughout the country. They offer courses in the metal trades, electro-mechanics, carpentry, auto-mechanics, radio-mechanics, aero-mechanics and glass-blowing. Courses in photography and printing are being added.

There are also a number of secondary schools which specialize in

agriculture. These schools are sponsored by Histadrut and by its Working-women's Councils. One school gives advanced courses in various branches of agriculture to members of our cooperative farm settlements.

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Histadrut's International Labor Contacts

In recent months many labor delegations and labor leaders from Europe and Asia have visited Histadrut in Israel, and Histadrut representatives have visited labor movements in foreign countries. Histadrut believes that the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (in which the Histadrut, like the AFL, the CIO and the United Mine Workers, is a member) takes on added significance when labor movements in different countries get to know each other and see how other labor federations operate.

Recently we had a six-man delegation of Burmese trade union leaders as our guests. The delegation was headed by Mr. U. Tin Nyunt, general-secretary of the Burmese Trade Union Congress and member of the Burmese Parliament.

Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, Minister of Defense in the former British Labor Cabinet, toured Israel at the invitation of the Government and was also the guest of Histadrut. Another recent visitor to Israel from Britain was Sam Watson, an old trade unionist and Member of Parliament, and one of the British Labor Party members representing the mining district of Durham. This was Watson's second visit to Israel since he visited our country the first time in 1949 as head of a combined delegation of the Trade Unions Congress, the Labor Party and the Cooperative Movement.

Histadrut is trying to establish particularly close relations with the trade union movement in the Middle East, and sent fraternal delegates to attend conventions of the trade union movement in Turkey (Turk-Is), which recently joined the ICFTU, and Cyprus (Cyprus Workers Confederation), which also belongs to the ICFTU.

Fraternal yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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Labor in Israel

VOLUME ONE - NUMBER EIGHT

November, 1953

Arab Workers in Histadrut

Israel's Arab population is 175,000, about 10 per cent of the total population of the country. About 120,000 Arabs live in villages as small farmers and as farm laborers, about 35,000 are in towns and the rest are nomads (Bedouins). For many years Israel's Federation of Labor (Histadrut) tried to organize these workers into unions, but never met with more than partial success. The Arab farm laborer who worked for a Jewish employer showed some response to the idea of unionization, but it was practically impossible to organize the Arab farm worker who was employed by Arab landowners. This was chiefly the result of the Arab landlord's abuse of the bond of race and religion that existed between him and his employees, whom he was easily able to convince that union organization was an undesirable modern device or even a weapon wielded by the Jews for sinister purposes.

As early as 1927 Histadrut launched its first efforts to organize Arab workers, and created the "Palestine Labor League" for the purpose. Before 1948 this organization met with only fair success, but the establishment of the State of Israel in that year improved the prospects of reaching the Arab worker. Branches of the "League" exist in 53 villages and seven cities. Full success came last spring, when Histadrut invited all Arab workers to join its trade unions. In the eight months that have passed since this step was taken, about 16,000 Arab workers have joined Histadrut trade unions.

Many of the unions which Arabs have joined are in the predominantly Arab town of Nazareth and in the hills of Lower Galilee. They are clerical employees, Government workers, teachers, quarry workers and men employed in the building trades. Arab industrial workers in Haifa and Jaffa, including workers in automobile repair shops, have also joined Histadrut unions, as have railway employees in Lydda.

Establishing Cooperatives

Histadrut has had to use unorthodox methods in bringing the full benefits of the labor movement to the Arab workers, who have become accustomed to exploitation for centuries and have been kept on a standard of living well below what would in modern countries be called the subsistence level. Many of the Arab workers live in tiny primitive villages and are, at least theoretically, self-employed. Because of their environment and way of life, Histadrut believes that cooperation is the best way of raising their standard of living, and a number of cooperatives, both in production and services,

as well as about ten cooperative stores, have been established in Arab communities. Histadrut allocated a special fund from which loans were made to these cooperatives to help them get on their feet. One of the best ways to help the Arab farmer was to organize the marketing of agricultural products from the Arab village in the towns. Previously the Arab farmers were unable to get full value for their products. During the last year nearly 40 per cent of the entire agricultural products of the Arab farmer in Israel was handled by the special marketing department of the "League."

Sick Fund Benefits

As members of cooperatives and of the Histadrut, these Arab workers enjoy many benefits which were previously entirely unknown to them. Perhaps the most valuable of the Histadrut services extended to them is the medical care and insurance provided by the Histadrut's Sick Fund. This institution, known as "Kupat Holim," provides complete medical insurance for the union member and his whole family, and now serves about a million persons, or roughly 65 per cent of the total population of Israel. "Kupat Holim" clinics have been established in the Arab town of Nazareth and also in the village Gish near Safed, and a few more are under construction.

Realizing that the Arab worker will understand the benefits of unionism only through a long process of information and education, the Histadrut publishes its own Arabic weekly "Makikat-el-Amr" which discusses labor issues and gives general information. This weekly may be converted into a daily paper. Courses and sports events are arranged by Histadrut in various Arab centers. In Nazareth, a labor club has been opened where classes, courses, lectures and exhibitions are arranged. A recent exhibition, which was visited by 3,500 workers, was called "Hygiene At Work."

In October an Arab publishing house was launched, sponsored jointly by the Association of Arab Teachers and Histadrut. This house will be managed by "Am Oved," the Histadrut publishing firm, and will publish textbooks, selections from Arabic literature and popular books on social questions.

Special attention has been given to vocational training of the Arab women, and training courses for needle trades have been organized in two different centers. Arab women are instructed in general hygiene and children's hygiene so that the wife of the Arab union member will be better equipped to play her role in a modern society.

Arab and Jewish Workers Cooperate

Histadrut's efforts on behalf of the depressed Arab workers have proved to be a potent instrument in bringing about greater amity between the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel. Organization in the same trade unions has led to greater understanding. At a recent meeting of Nazareth's most prominent Arab citizens with Histadrut leaders, Mohammed Khalil, the

Arab Histadrut representative in that town, said that Histadrut, through its social and human ideals, could bring real and lasting friendship between Jews and Arabs in Israel. Seif ed-Din Zouabi, an Arab member of Israel's parliament (whose name means "Sword of the Lord") speaking at the same meeting, stressed the progress made by Arab laborers and farmers, who now enjoy far better conditions than they did before the establishment of the State of Israel.

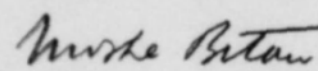
Histadrut realizes that it may be possible to reduce the hostility against Israel which is now prevalent in the Arab states if the working communities in those states see that Jewish and Arab workers in Israel cooperate wholeheartedly in a strong trade union movement and receive substantial benefits from their common labor movement. Long before the establishment of the State of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, who was previously the Secretary-General of the Histadrut and is now the Prime Minister of Israel, said:

"We must be frank and open in our relations with the Arabs. History and destiny have thrown Arabs and Jews together in this part of the world. There is no room for deception in historical relationships. We should not hesitate to say frankly that there is nothing in common between us, the Jewish workers, and the effendis, the feudal overlords who are now the leaders of the Arabs. The effendis do not regard us primarily as an opponent nation, but as a social force that threatens to weaken the feudal grip in which they hold their oppressed fellow-Arabs in the ranks of the peasants and workers. We can never come to a full understanding with this group. We must look for a firmer solution, although it may take some time to achieve. That solution means coming to an understanding with the Arab worker."

Communist Intrigues

Since the establishment of the State of Israel, Histadrut has been trying in its own way to contribute to peace in the Middle East by organizing the Arab worker in Israel. We have met with some opposition, chiefly from the Communist-dominated "Congress of Arab Workers" in Nazareth. This group combines diehard extreme nationalism with Communist slogans. However, their influence, never very strong, is on the decline. The last few months of Histadrut's organizational drive, during which 16,000 Arab workers have chosen to join its trade unions, have proved that it is possible for our trade unions to supplant the Communist-dominated group.

Faternally yours,



Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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One of the large Kupat Holim Hospitals is located in the suburbs of Tel Aviv. This is the Beilinson Hospital, which was established in 1937 and has been growing ever since. Histadrut would like to complete an eighty (80) bed Children's Pavilion as part of this Hospital. The cost of completion of this Pavilion will be \$100,000.

Mr. M. W. Shafferman

- 2 -

October 6, 1953

The budget of Eupat Holim only enables the expenditure of \$50,000 and this organization has asked us to try to raise the additional \$50,000 in the United States.

If the International Brotherhood of Teamsters could contribute the \$50,000 for this most worthwhile cause, this Children's Pavilion would be dedicated and named for the Brotherhood of Teamsters or anyone else they designated. This could be a lasting memorial to one of our greatest American Trade unions in a land that is considered Holy by the three great religions of this world. It would also help strengthen the only free trade union movement in the Middle East and give support to Israel in its fight against all forms of totalitarianism both internally and externally.

Several close friends of President Beck suggested that he might be interested in sponsoring this Pavilion. They also suggested that he probably would discuss this matter with you before asking a decision. I feel certain that the great Prophets of Israel as well as Jesus of Nazareth, who considered the welfare of children above all others, would smile down on such a gesture of brotherhood and love.

Anything that you can do to help us on this matter would be greatly appreciated. I am enclosing, for your information, two brochures on Eupat Holim, as well as pictures of the Beilinson Hospital. Circled is the unfinished Children's Pavilion that needs funds to be completed.

Sincerely yours,

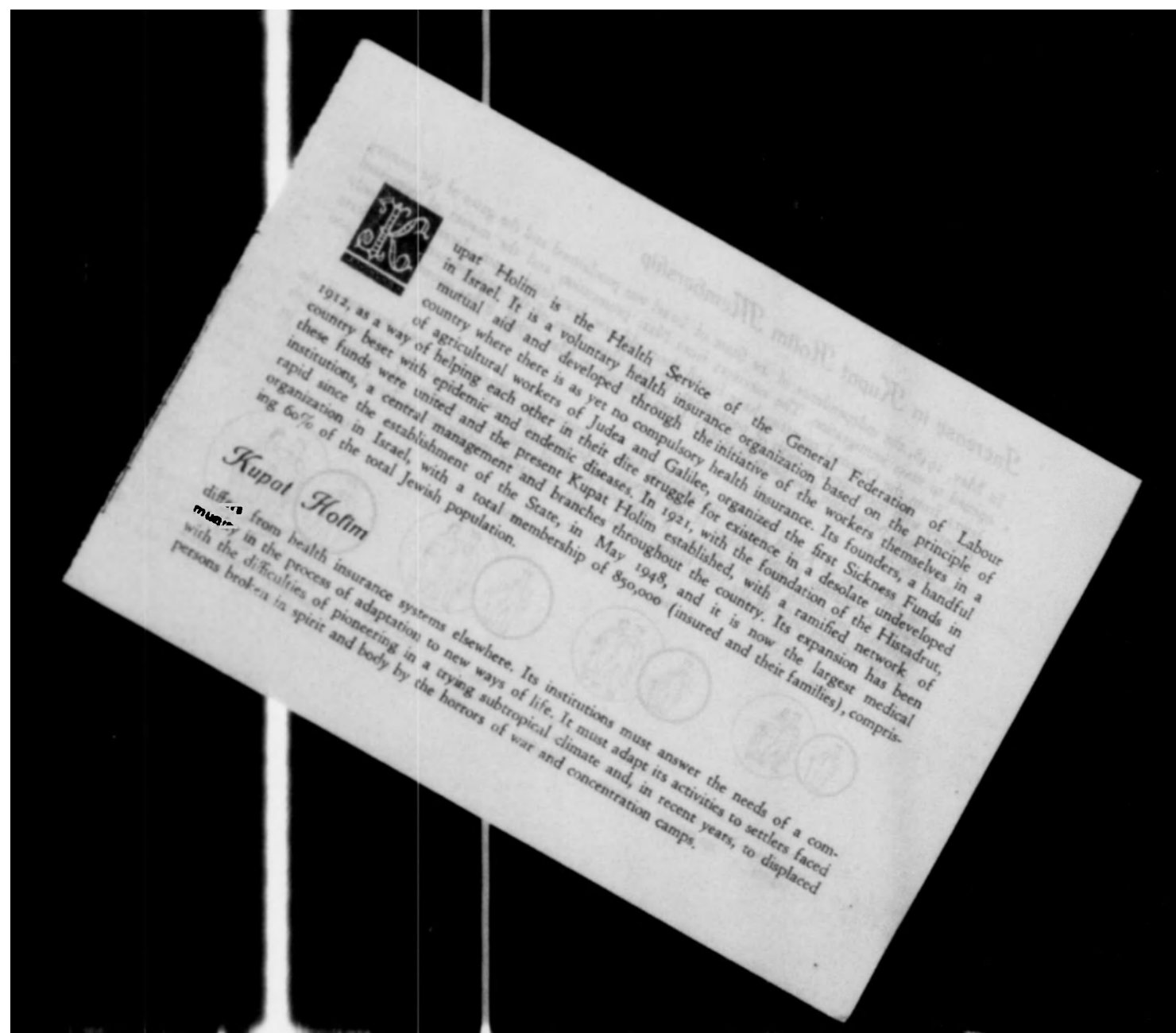
Gregory J. Bardacke

Gregory J. Bardacke
Executive Director

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500 for fund

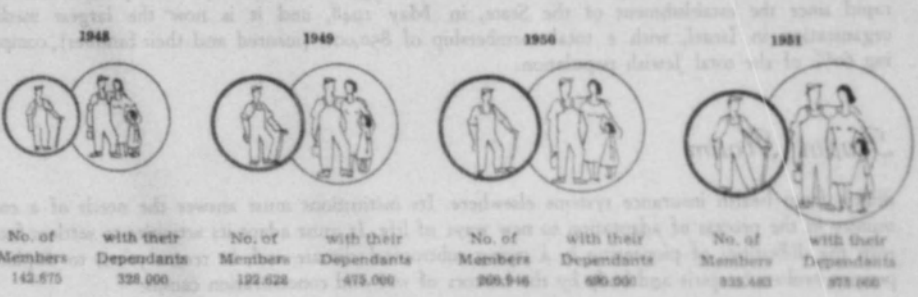




Increase in Kupat Holim Membership

In May, 1948, the independence of the State of Israel was proclaimed and the gates of the country opened to mass immigration. The survivors from Nazi persecution and the masses of oppressed Jewry from the Oriental countries have found their old-new homeland again. Israel is the only country with such rapid growth of population. Within three years of the establishment of the State the Jewish population has been doubled: from 650,000 in May, 1948, it has grown to 1,300,000 in May, 1951.

The expansion of Kupat Holim membership has, in proportion, surpassed the total increase of the Jewish population. Kupat Holim of the Labour Federation of Israel is the central and main health insurance institution of the country; it embraces 82% of the total number of insured and its budget reaches 92% of the total budget of all health insurance institutions in Israel.



From 120,000 in 1948 the number of insured persons in Kapat Holim has grown to 875,000 in 1951, an increase of 143%.

Its Membership

consists of skilled and unskilled workers in town and village, members of cooperative settlements and hired agricultural labourers, employees in every sector of the country's economy — industry, navigation, commerce, public works and liberal professions. It includes all members of the Huta druz and their families, as well as members of the orthodox worker's union (Hapoel Hamizrshi, Poalei Agudath Yisrael). The organized Arab workers also enjoy the benefits of Kapat Holim membership.

Mutual Aid.

Kapat Holim is organized on a country-wide scale. Its system of financial centralization implements the principle of mutual aid, as between town and village, between new struggling settlements and more prosperous localities. Through the cooperation of all its members, it is possible to extend the same benefits and services to all its members irrespective of their earning capacity, whether they are employed or unemployed, whether they live in remote settlements or in large urban centres.



Activities and Services

Kupat Holim provides medical aid through its institutions and staff for members and their families. An increase in a member's fees entitles his dependants to all benefits. Non-insured dependants receive same services free of charge and pay for others, such as: medicaments, hospitalization, laboratory examinations, etc. First aid is rendered to members and non-members. Medical Aid consists of:

MEDICAL TREATMENT IN DISPENSARIES (polyclinics) or at home, by general practitioners, specialists and nurses

HOSPITALIZATION in its own hospitals, or in Government, Municipal and public hospitals at the expense of Kupat Holim



CONVALESCENCE AND RECREATION in its sanatoria and vacation camps.

SICK BENEFITS during illness and disablement.

SPECIAL MEDICAL TREATMENT (physiotherapy, XRay, dentistry, bacteriological).

MEDICINES and medical appliances in its pharmacies.

MEDICAL CARE and artificial limbs in case of accidents at work (enjoyed by workers on the basis of employers' payments to Kupat Holim.)

MATERNITY AID consists of hospitalization and child welfare in special pre-natal and infant welfare stations.





The central dispensary at Tel-Aviv, the biggest in Israel. Behind: a new wing, nearly completed.

Dispensaries (Polyclinics).

DISPENSARIES have been established in every town, village and settlement in which 50

members reside and work. There are various kinds of dispensaries:

CENTRAL DISPENSARIES in each of the Kupat Holim districts provide special services, such as specialists' consultation, X-Ray examination and treatment, dentistry, laboratory tests, etc.

URBAN DISTRICT DISPENSARIES, serving about 6,000 persons, help to retain the personal contact between physician and patient, despite the growth of the membership. Each general practitioner serves a certain number of families in an area. Both in the dispensary and at home, and in case of need refers patients to specialists attached to the dispensary. Nurses, Physiotherapy, laboratory and pharmacy services are also available in these centres.

RURAL DISTRICT DISPENSARIES are staffed by a general practitioner, nurse, pediatrician, physiotherapist, and visited at regular intervals by other specialists. Some of

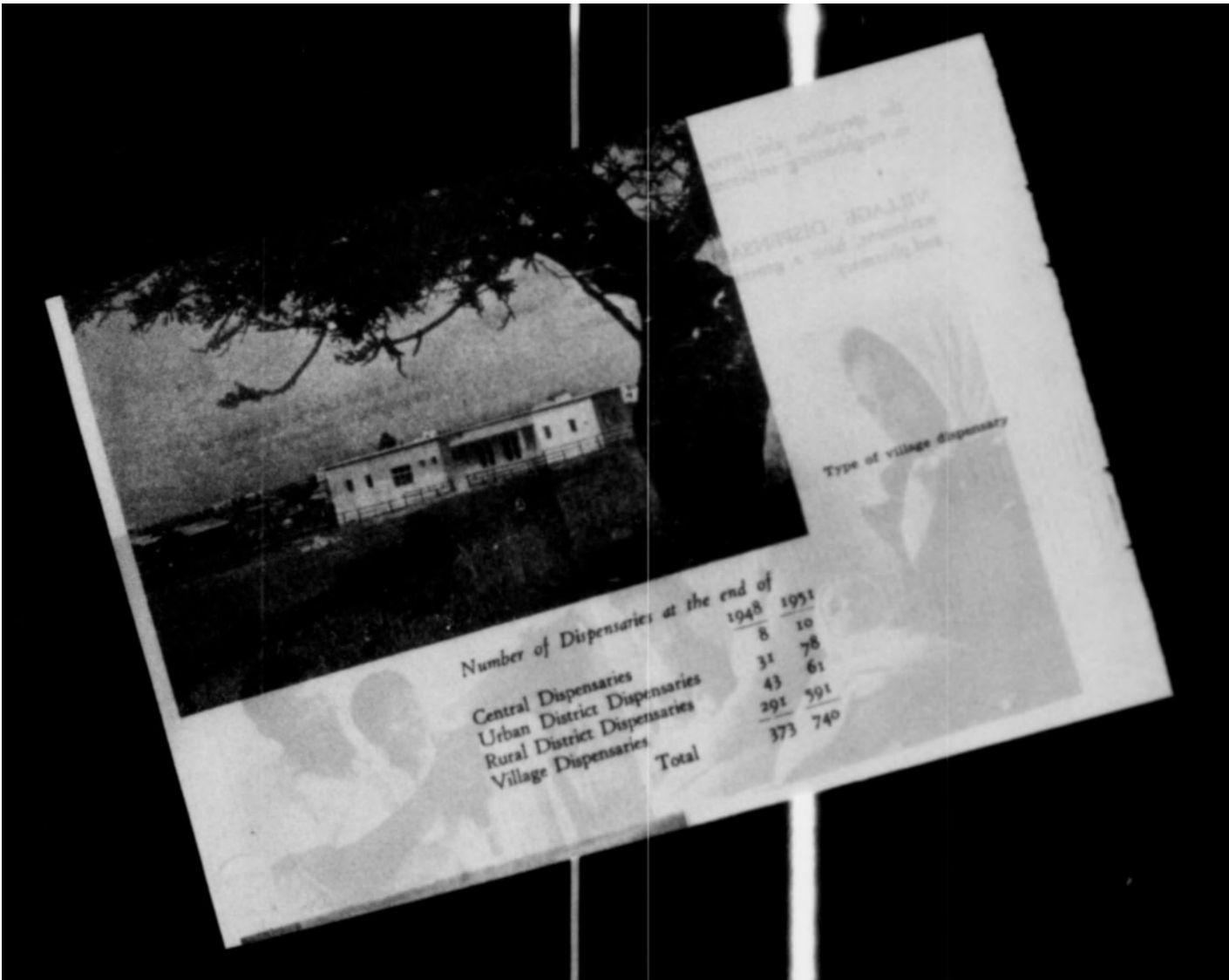
the specialists also serve village dispensaries in neighbouring settlements.

VILLAGE DISPENSARIES serving one settlement, have a general practitioner, nurse and pharmacy.



At a dispensary in a maabarab (immigrants' temporary village)





Number of Dispensaries at the end of

	1948	1951
Central Dispensaries	8	10
Urban District Dispensaries	31	78
Rural District Dispensaries	43	61
Village Dispensaries	291	791
Total	373	740

Hospitals

HOSPITAL PROVISION by Kupat Holim dates back those occasions when itinerant workers were tended during sickness in primitive tents and huts until beds were

"At the beginning..."
The first hospital in Kibbutz Ein Harod, in 1922.



obtained in public hospitals (very few in number during that period).

Kupat Holim maintains eight general and six special hospitals, as shown in the following table:

A. General Hospitals

Central Hospital of the Emek, near Afulah
Beitanyon Hospital, near Petah-Tiqvah
Sharon Hospital, Petah-Tiqvah
Carmel Hospital, Haifa
Maternity and Gynaecological Hosp. Rehovoth
Maternity and Gynaecological Hosp. Hederah
Maternity and Gynaecolog. Hosp., Kfar Saba
Hospital for Rheumatic Cases, Tiberias



At an infants' ward in the hospital in Kfar Saba.

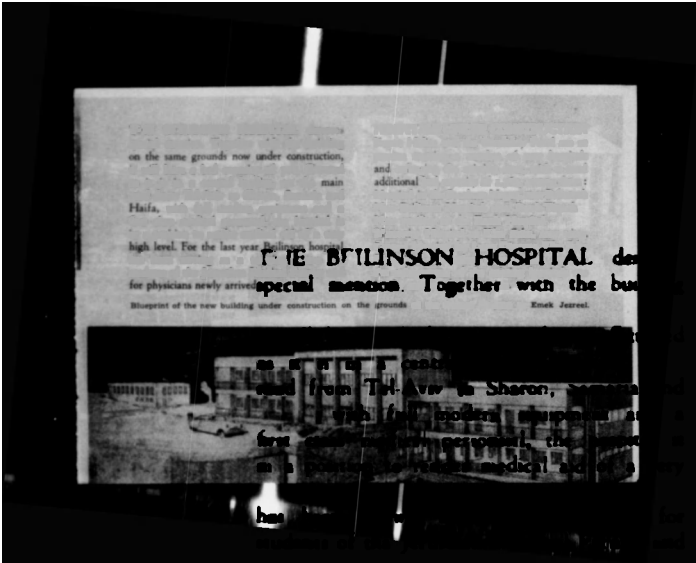
B. Special Hospitals (maintained by the Invalidity Fund of Kupat Holim)

Levinstein House (Lung Diseases), Magdici "Gaba" (Mental diseases), near Petah-Tiqvah "Shalva" (for light mental cases near Tel Aviv Feinstein House (for protracted diseases), Ramat Hasharon Mental Hospital at Telbush, Jerusalem Tuberculosis Hospital, Raanana

The total number of beds in the above hospitals reaches 1,241 (not including about 200 beds for infants).

Besides its own hospitalization facilities, Kupat Holim has standing arrangements with various public hospitals (Government, Municipal and Hadassah) concerning hospitalization of its members.

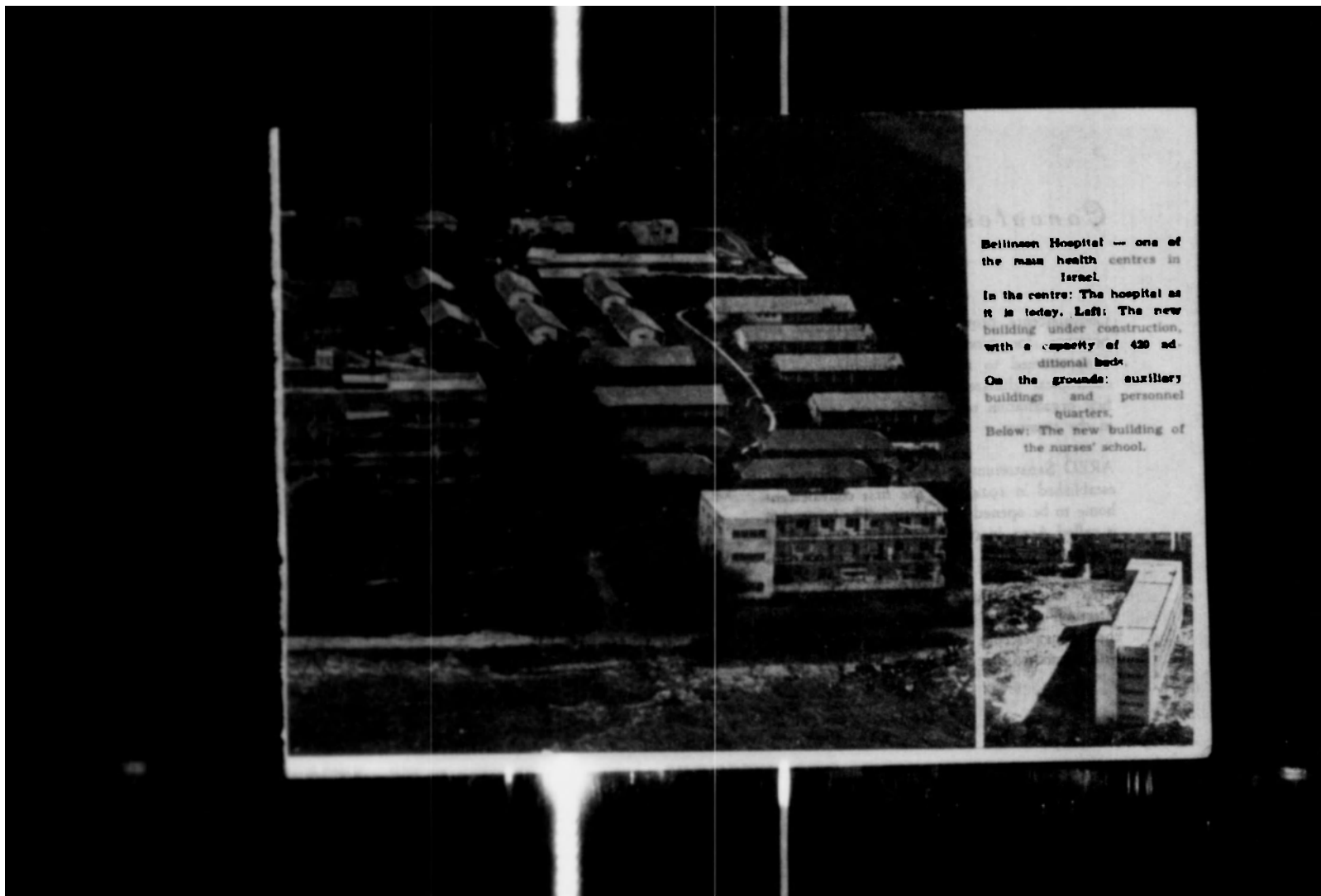
THE CENTRAL HOSPITAL OF THE FMEK had its beginnings in 1903 when Kupat Holim opened its first hospital as barracks in Am-Hared for the early settlers colonized in the Eneki (Valley of Jezreel). With the transfer of the hospital in 1930 to permanent quarters its set-up was modernized and its expansion has since then kept pace with the needs of a growing population. This hospital also serves as a medical and health center for the new agricultural settlers in the Valley of Jezreel.



HOSPITALS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
Kupat Holim and the Invalidity Fund are at present erecting a number of new hospitals enlarging the existing ones, with a total bed capacity of 1,500, among them Hospital in the Southern Negev, near Rehovoth New Beilinson Hospital, near Petah-Tiqvah New pavilion at the Emek Hospital Maternity Hospital at Kfar Saba, new wing Central Hospital for Lung Diseases, Kfar Saba Blueprints and other arrangements towards the enlargement of the existing hospitals are in the course of preparation

of the Central Hospital in





Belinson Hospital -- one of
the main health centres in
Israel.
In the centre: The hospital as
it is today. Left: The new
building under construction,
with a capacity of 400 ad-
ditional beds.
On the grounds: auxiliary
buildings and personnel
quarters.
Below: The new building of
the nurses' school.

Belinson Hospital
not a building
more of a ward



Convalescence

1994

Convelescence pr.

Convalescence provision is of particular importance for pioneer workers and workers unaccustomed to manual occupations and a subtropical climate. Kupes Holan was the first organization to establish such institutions in the country.

ARZO Sanatorium at Motza, near Jerusalem, established in 1924, was the first convalescent home to be opened in Palestine. The institution is called Arzo, in commemoration of a tree of this name planted there by Herzl, during his visit to Palestine, in 1898. In recent years Arzo has specialized in the treatment of intestinal ailments and heart diseases. During their convalescence their patients are advised with regard to diet and health habits.



At the reading and recreation room in the "Arzo" sanatorium near Jerusalem.

BOROCHOV CONVALESCENT HOME, on Miami Carmel, established in 1926. It was named after Bar Borochow, one of the founders and ideologists of the Socialist-Zionist movement.



Bathing and outdoor games in the Kupat Holim rest homes on the shores of the Mediterranean.

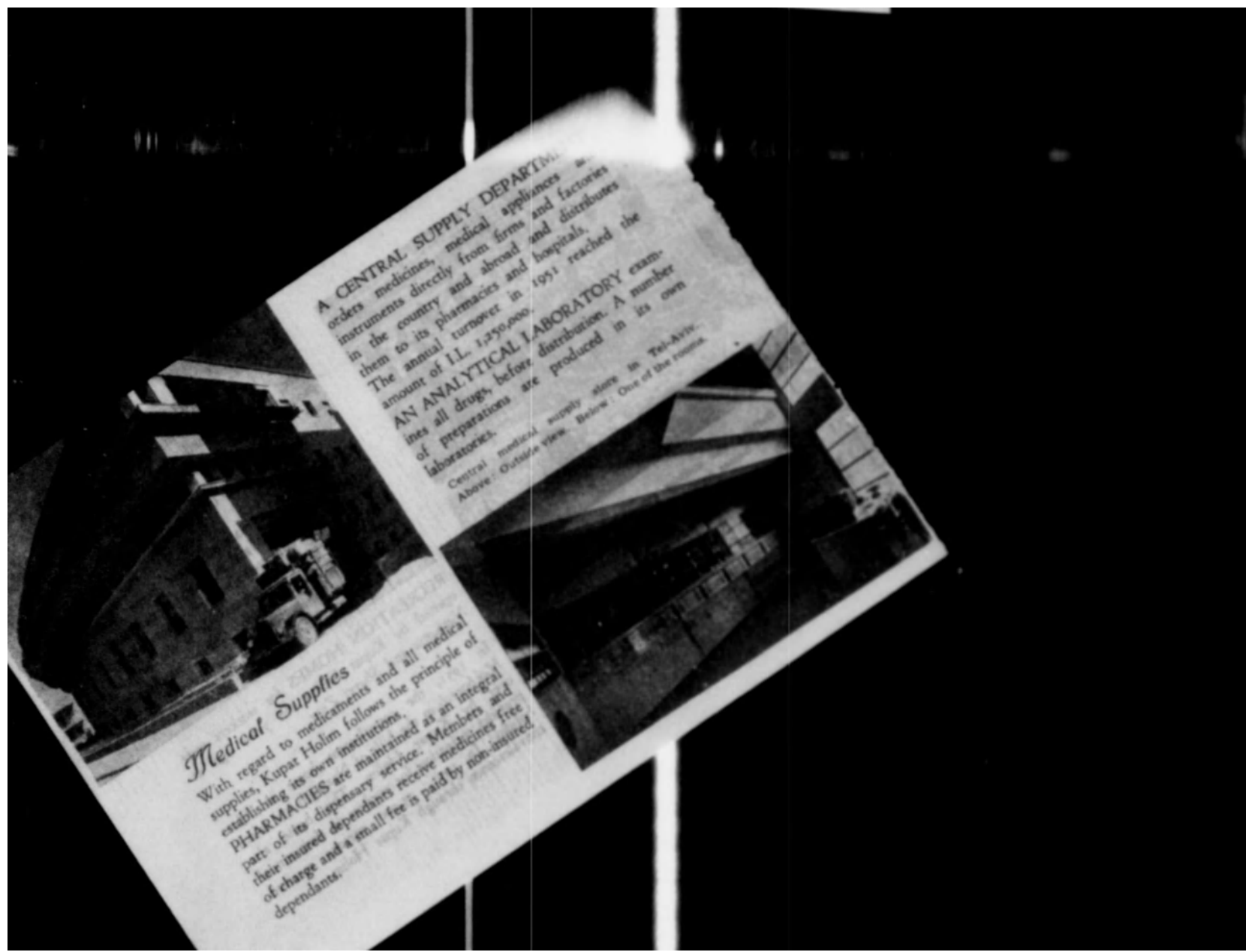
NEVE MELIL was opened in 1941 in the hills of Be'er Beik. Named after Dr. Hillel Jellin, one of the pioneer physicians of Palestine, it is intended for patients in need of convalescence after a serious illness.

BUSSEI HOME was opened in Safad in 1942 for convalescents in need of medical care. It was named after Joseph Bussei, a pioneer leader in the labour movement and one of the founders of Druze, the first collective settlement in Palestine.

NEVE EIM, a maternity rest home, was opened near Nitzan in 1946 for maternity cases in need of convalescence immediately after discharge from hospital. It is the only home of its kind which admits mothers and infants. Young mothers are trained in the care of their infants.

RECREATION HOMES for workers were opened by Kupat Holim ten years ago in Nathana and Shavei Zion.

In 1951, the convalescent home in Kfar Hakhorech in the hills of Nazareth was taken over by Kupat Holim. This home also provides recreation for workers on their annual holiday. In 1951, 25,000 persons received convalescence through Kupat Holim.



A CENTRAL SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
orders medicines, medical appliances and
instruments directly from firms and factories
in the country and abroad and distributes
them to its pharmacies and hospitals.
The annual turnover in 1931 reached the
amount of L.L. 1,250,000.
AN ANALYTICAL LABORATORY exam-
ines all drugs before distribution. A number
of preparations are produced in its own
laboratories.

Central medical supply store in Baghdad.
Above: Outside view. Below: One of the rooms.

Medical Supplies
With regard to medicaments and all medical
supplies, Kapor Halem follows the principle of
establishing its own institutions.
PHARMACIES are maintained as an integral
part of its dispensary service. Members and
their insured dependents receive medicines free
of charge and a small fee is paid by non-insured
dependents.

Number of Kapei Holin Pharmacies		
	In 1948	In 1951
General pharmacies	0	11
District pharmacies	73	139
Village pharmacies	106	591
Total	180	740

General Public Health Services

In addition to direct medical aid and benefits for its members, Kapei Holin engages in more general preventive health work. Kapei Holin maintains infant welfare stations where care is taken of the health of the newborn and where mothers receive advice and guidance. It conducts market inspection and hygiene work in towns, villages and remote areas. It assists in the battle against

measles and other acute infectious diseases. It helps to combat the spread of malaria and dengue fever. Kapei Holin personnel supervise children's health in schools and kindergartens.



infectious diseases and epidemics and supervises and advises with regard to antimalarial, sanitary and hygienic conditions in labour settlements.

In industrial plants connected with Kupat Holim its physicians and nurses conduct first aid stations and take care of accident cases. All workers in such factories and camps receive periodic medical examinations, particularly in order to detect occupational diseases and tuberculosis.

National Functions

NEW SETTLERS are accompanied by Kupat Holim from the first day of their settlement on the land. They are supplied with firm and material and medicaments. Medical aid sustains in small settlements and dispensaries in larger localities are established and equipped and a resident staff appointed. In times of emergency



Factory workers undergo periodical medical examination for the prevention of occupational diseases.

when remote settlements are in danger of becoming isolated, Kupat Holim sends doctors to every such settlement, even if its members number only a few score.

All new settlements are anchored in the medical network of Kupat Holim. Colonization in unclaimed desert areas carries a higher incidence of illness and demands special arrangements for the transfer and hospitalization of such cases.

New Immigrants

The present mass immigration has placed hitherto unforeseen demands upon the institutions of Kupat Holim. The new immigrants, having suffered years of homelessness and hardships at concentration camps, required individual care and special understanding of their needs. New immigrants (adults and youth) are insured by the Jewish Agency in Kupat Holim for the first three months. Upon their arrival in the country immigrants are given a thorough medical examination by Kupat Holim personnel. One of the most important functions towards the health absorption of the newcomers is the medical examination at the big



Nurse receiving new women immigrants from Iran.

reception centre "Shaar Ha'aliya" near Haifa, or at the Atlith camp, where immigrants are brought in straight from ships and planes.

This medical examination of all newcomers has two aims in view: firstly, the detection of diseases in their early stages, to ensure immediate and proper medical care; secondly, isolation of contagious cases to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases. Special attention is paid to tuberculosis and venereal diseases. Kupat Holim uses two minographs, (for X-ray chest examinations). About 187,000 new immigrants were examined during the years 1949/1950, and among them over 1,000 cases of acute tuberculosis and 11,500 cases of latent tuberculosis were detected.

New immigrants insured in Kupat Holim are given, free of charge, special privileges over

and above those enjoyed by its regular members. For instance, while new members pay for hospitalization, X-ray and special treatment during the first six months of their membership, immigrants enjoy these services free of charge. Furthermore, women immigrants receive free contraceptives and hospitalization in Kupat Holim hospitals and maternity homes, while members are charged for this service. Apart from that, the immigrants are granted a 40% reduction of the regular member's fees during the first year (upon elapse of the three months insurance by the Jewish Agency). These are some of the instances of various benefits enjoyed by the new immigrants from the very first day of membership, while new regular members receive them only after a certain waiting period.

Medical Aid to Arabs

Kupat Holim physicians render medical aid to the Arab population in the colonies and settlements. Peasants and Bedouins in the new colonization area come to the dispensary and receive medical aid and treatment.

The Arabs, who are members of the Israel Labor League, receive medical aid as members, or against payment for the treatment.

In industrial plants, in which Arabs and Jews work together, employers' contributions secure medical aid for Arab workers.

Kupat Holim maintains a special dispensary in the Arab district of Nazareth.

At the Kupat Holim dispensary in Nazareth.



The Personnel

A qualified staff with a sense of public duty and responsibility administers the health services enjoyed by Kupat Holim members and their dependants. The first physicians and nurses accompanied the early pioneer settlers from the day of their arrival in Palestine and became an organic part of the working community. Up to this day it has remained one of the main principles of Kupat Holim to ensure that physicians and nurses accompany pioneers and settlers even to the most remote corners of Israel.

Kupat Holim personnel in 1951 consists of:

Physicians	1837
Nurses	1640
Dentists and their Assistants	178
Pharmacists	330
Technicians, Laboratory workers	336
Administrative Staff	958
Domestic Services	1285
Total	5,987



In the seminary for physicians' postgraduate courses—the only one of its kind in the country—opened this year at the Beilinson hospital.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

Kupat Holon maintains its own institutions for the professional training of its staff: a permanent postgraduate course for physicians (recently established as the Beilinson Hospital); two nurses' schools (at the Beilinson and the Einak Hospitals); special training courses for X-Ray and physiotherapy, courses for laboratory technicians, for practical nursing to meet the needs of the rural settlements, seminary courses for administrative workers.

Besides the training Kupat Holon provides in its own institutions, physicians and other personnel are being sent for special study to the U.S.A. and Europe.



Classroom is one of the nurse's schools.



Budget

The main source of income of Kupat Holim consists of members' dues (8% of the wages), additional payments for family insurance (1.6% of the wages) and payments of dependants for medical services. All the above payments make up more than half of the budget. The second source of income consists of Employers' contributions (1.7% of the pay-roll) which are made by special arrangement with Kupat Holim, even though there is no compulsory legislation in the country for same. This sum covers one third of the budget.

Since the establishment of the State the Government participates in the budget of Kupat Holim. In 1951, this participation reached 10% of the budget.

The budget of Kupat Holim amounted to eleven million pounds in 1951 and will reach 17 million pounds in the current year.

BUDGET 1951 IN PERCENTAGE

Where the money comes from :		How the money was used :	
Members' dues and payments for services	56.7%	Dispensaries and auxiliary institutes	31.3%
Employers' contributions	38.7%	Hospitals	19.1%
Government grant	18.4%	Convalescence and preventive medicine	8.3%
Miscellaneous	9.2%	Buildings and investments	7.4%
	100%	Collection expenses	2.9%
		Administration	2.7%
		Various services and nurses schools	2.1%
			100%

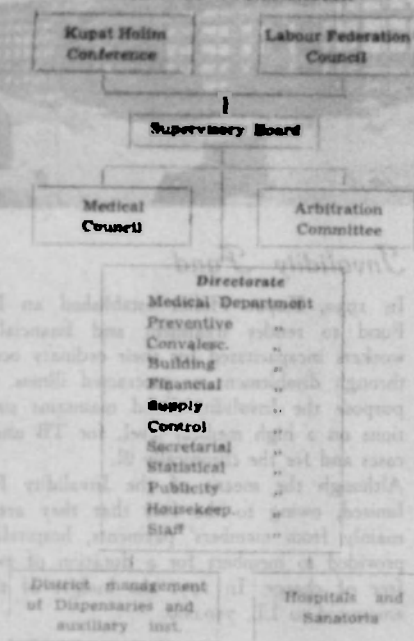
Organisational Set-Up.

The supreme organ of Kupat Hslan is the Members' Conference which, together with the Labour Federation Council, elects a Supervisory Board. This Board is both a legislative and a supervisory organ. The Supervisory Board appoints a Governing Board (Directorate) for the management of the institution as a whole.

For administrative purposes the country is divided in 14 districts, each with an office and a district committee elected by the members of Kupat Hslan.

These district offices are directed and supervised by the Head Office. It functions through departments as shown in the chart.

ACRUE OF ORGANISATION





Above: New TB hospital at Kfar Saba under construction.
Below: Sun porch at the TB hospital in Haanana.

Invalidity Fund

In 1920, Kupat Holim established an Invalidity Fund to render treatment and financial aid to workers incapacitated for their ordinary occupations through disablement or protracted illness. For this purpose the Invalidity Fund maintains six institutions on a high medical level, for TB and mental cases and for the chronically ill. Although the means of the Invalidity Fund are limited, owing to the fact that they are derived mainly from members' payments, hospitalization is provided to members for a duration of two years, free of charge. In 1951 the budget of the fund amounted to I.L. 750,000.



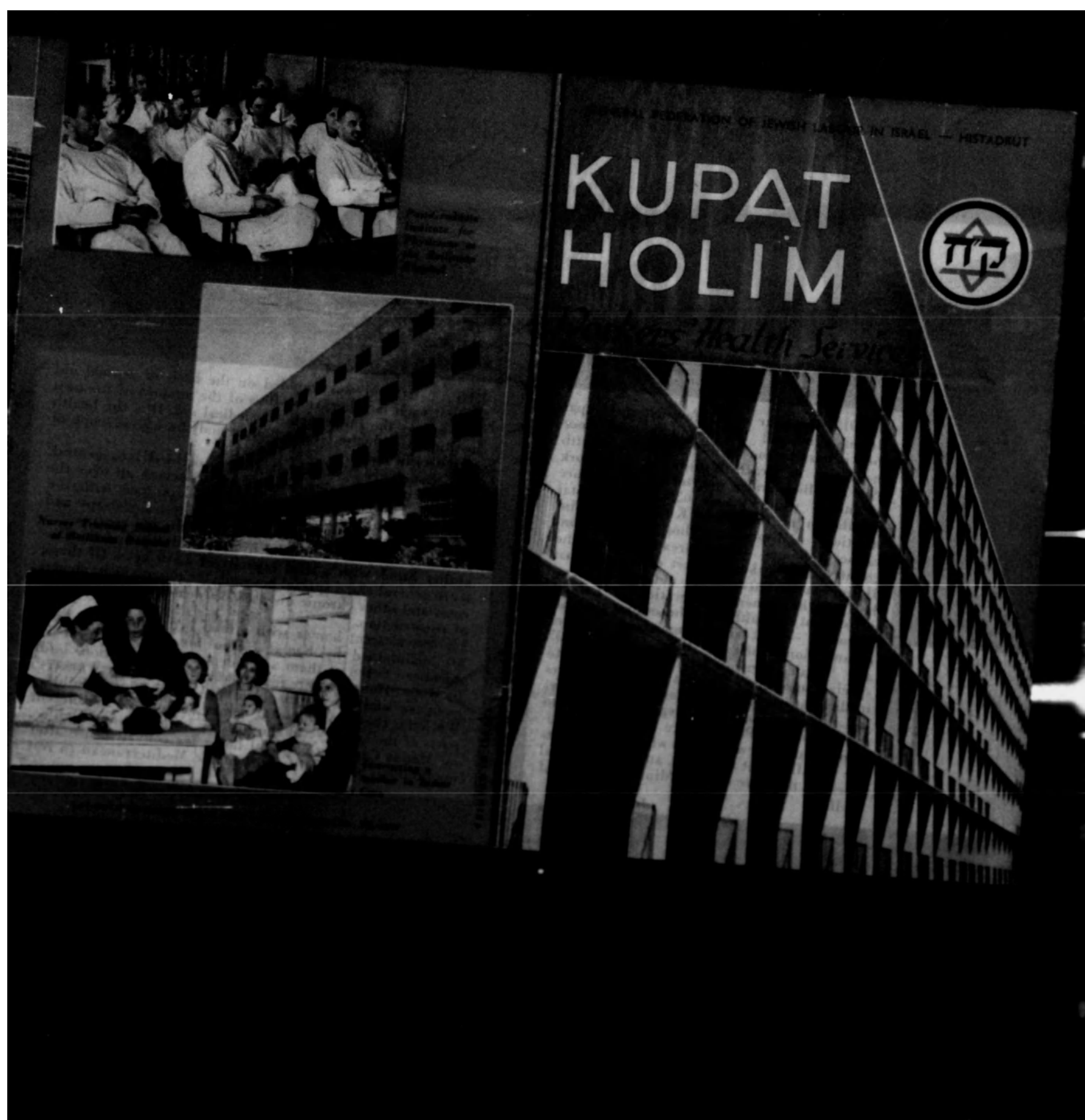
The Disability Fund was founded in 1930, as an auxiliary institution to Kupat Holim. Its main object is to take care of the chronically ill and their restoration to health and to a normal life routine. With this purpose in view, the Fund has to undertake the care, economically and socially, for the beneficiary already during the period of illness.

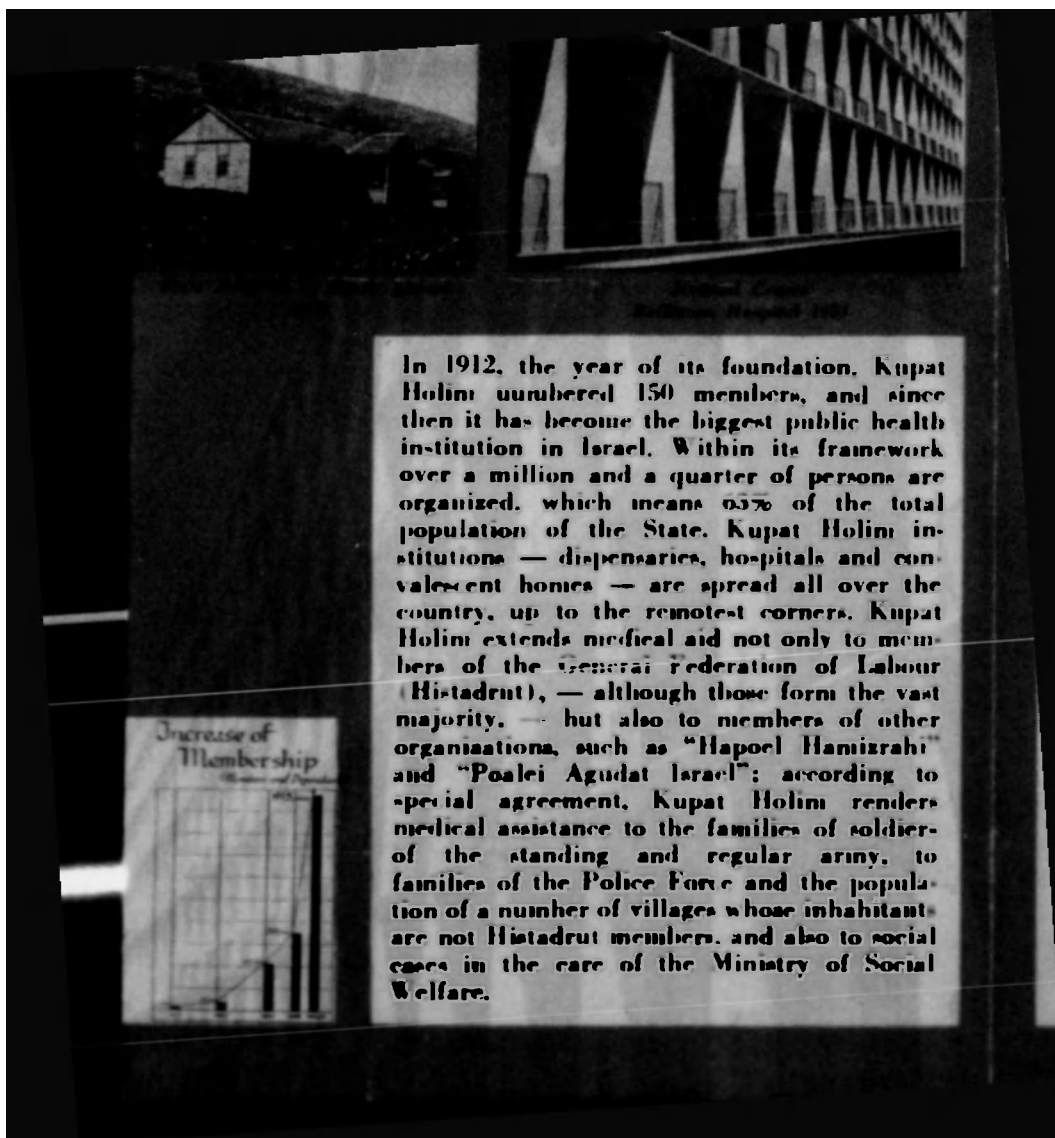
The chronically ill constitute a very serious social and economic problem. The Fund tries to solve these problems — while the patient is still in the institution, — through the application of occupational therapy (the first stage preceding professional training), professional training in the institutions and outside and with the help of special monetary funds for the granting of constructive loans. Improvement of the position of the patient in society through cultural activities has as its aim to inspire him with confidence in himself.

The Disability Fund also assists patients in the purchase of orthopaedic appliances which they need for rehabilitation and resumption of normal life.

The Disability Fund maintains 6 special hospitals: 2 for lung diseases; 3 for mental cases; 1 for paralytics (including infantile paralysis). Total 545 beds.

Under construction: 500 beds.







KUPAT HOLIM was founded on the basis of mutual aid so that each member, regardless of the amount of his own fees, enjoys the full benefit of medical aid. It is the health institution with the largest budget and the widest scope of activities in Israel.

820 dispensaries of Kupat Holim, divided into central, district and village dispensaries, are dispersed all over the country. The central dispensaries are equipped with the necessary auxiliary institutes (X-Ray, physical therapy and laboratories) and serve as medical consultation centres.

14 hospitals are maintained by Kupat Holim and the Disability Fund, with a total capacity of 1,550 beds. Of these, 8 are general and 6 special hospitals for tuberculosis, mental cases and other chronic diseases. 630 beds are in the course of construction.

12 convalescent homes with a total bed capacity of 1,320 are maintained by Kupat Holim for the benefit of its members. Seven of them are independent institutions built by Kupat Holim, 4 were founded by the "Rest for Workers" company and one by the Insurance Fund of the Building Workers. These convalescent homes are situated in different parts of the country: in the hills of Jerusalem and Galilee, on Mount Carmel (a special home for convalescence after operations), and on the shore of the Mediterranean (a rest

home for workers). In 1952, 35,000 persons spent their holidays in Kupat Holim convalescent and rest homes, and their number will increase in 1953.

165 infant welfare stations of Kupat Holim direct and guide young mothers in the maabaroth and frontier settlements to take care of their children, likewise Kupat Holim supervises children's health in the kibbutzim (communal settlements), in schools and workers' villages. The activities of Kupat Holim in the field of curative and preventive medicine play an important role in the decreased incidence of illness and mortality rate, of the population in general and infants in particular.

Kupat Holim maintains a wide network of training institutions for its medical personnel (X-ray technicians, physical therapy nurses, laboratory assistants). A special post-graduate course for physicians, the first and only one in Israel, has been opened at the medical centre, Beilinson hospital. 3 nurses training schools (at the Beilinson, the Central Emek and the Kaplan hospitals) comprising 200 pupils, have trained hundreds of nurses for the hospitals and dispensaries of Kupat Holim.

Kupat Holim is doing the utmost to employ in its institutions more physicians and other professional medical workers the shortage of which is being keenly felt.

Labor in Israel

VOLUME ONE - NUMBER SEVEN

September, 1953

I am renewing the monthly publication of our Newsletter after a break during the summer months. I was away from the United States, attending the Congress of the ICFTU in Stockholm as a member of our delegation and I was also home in Israel for three weeks prior to my return to this country.

The Histadrut delegation in Stockholm participated fully in the work of the Congress and thus had a chance to meet delegations from all the free trade union movement throughout the world. When the question of Histadrut's inclusion in the Executive Board of the ICFTU was raised in Stockholm, we were glad to find that our candidacy got the whole hearted support of the American and Canadian delegations of the AFL and CIO. We were gratified to find that both delegations regarded the presence of an Israeli representative on the Executive Board of the ICFTU, representing 500,000 members of trade unionists in the Middle East, as an asset for the young organization of free trade unions. Both in Stockholm and back in Israel, we felt that this attitude on the part of the American trade union movement strengthened the tradition of friendship and solidarity which has existed between our two movements for so many years.

After the Stockholm Congress of the ICFTU, an official delegation of the CIO visited Israel at the invitation of Histadrut. The delegation consisted of James B. Carey, Secretary Treasurer of the CIO and President of the Electrical Workers Union; Michael Quill, Vice-President of the CIO and President of the Transport Workers Union; and Arthur J. Goldberg, General Counsel of the CIO and the Steelworkers. We also had Phil Kramer of Boston, Vice-President of the ILGWU, as our guest. We hope that an official delegation of the American Federation of Labor will visit us soon.

Inflation Checked

I had been away from Israel for about nine months and was therefore able to observe some changes, although my stay was very short. Our State has doubled its population during the last five years and maintained a policy of full employment, even at the cost of inflationary budgets. Reduced government expenditure resulted in checking the inflationary process but at the same time created some unemployment. The last year brought with it some improvement in our economic situation but created hardships for the working population. Therefore Histadrut has been confronted by some serious problems; our funds are being used in order to create new jobs by giving loans to industrial enterprises or municipalities; unemployed workers in towns are being assisted to move into agricultural cooperatives; efficiency councils, established jointly by labor and management, help the young Israeli industry in producing more and better goods for export; Histadrut is mobilizing both manpower and financial resources to help develop the desert land of the South (Negev).

HISTADRUT HOUSE • 33 East 67th Street, New York 21, N. Y. • Tel.: REgent 4-6010

National Unions in Conference

At the same time we have many problems of organization on our hands. Our Federation has grown even faster than the State of Israel. Out of three members of Histadrut, two are new immigrants who arrived in Israel during the last five years. A serious attempt is being made to integrate the new member and immigrant in the economic and social fabric of our State. We believe that this can be accelerated by making the new immigrant an active member of our Federation.

The structure of our Federation is different from the structure of your labor movement. A member joins and pays dues directly to the national federation. Most of our national unions, some 30 in number, were established only after 1943. They have their conventions every three or four years, according to their constitutions. Between conventions they have sessions of the council, which consists to a large extent of rank and file members in addition to the elected officers. Both the conventions and council sessions are therefore full expression of labor democracy in action.

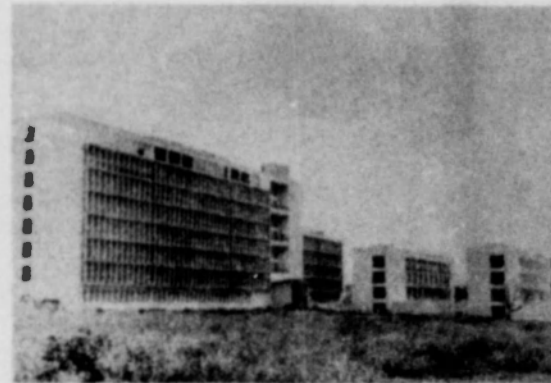
While in Israel I learned that during the last few months representatives of 157,760 workers from various national unions met in session either at a convention or at a council.

	Date	Number of Workers Represented
Convention of Nurses Union	Dec. 1952	3,000
Fourth Council of Workers of Histadrut Industrial Enterprises	Jan. 1953	13,000
Eighth Council of Metal Workers Union	Jan. 1953	30,000
Fourth Council of Textile Workers Un.	Jan. 1953	13,000
Fifth Council of Woodworkers Union	Feb. 1953	7,000
Council of Truck Drivers	Feb. 1953	5,000
Sixth Council of Social Workers Union	March 1953	1,000
First Convention of Government Employees Union	March 1953	29,000
Tenth Council of Printers Union	March 1953	3,000
Seventh Council of Building Trade Wkrs.	March 1953	35,000
Council of Teachers Association	March 1953	13,000
Convention of Sick Fund Employees	May 1953	5,000
Preparatory meeting for establishment of Artists Union	June 1953	700
Preparatory meeting for establishment of Film Operators Union	July 1953	60
Convention of Teachers Association	August 1953	Number listed above
		157,760

New Histadrut Headquarters

In June, our Executive Board moved into its new headquarters on the northern outskirts of Tel Aviv. Our old building in the center of Tel Aviv

was not big enough to accommodate all our departments, and we had therefore occupied offices in several other places. By selling the old building, which is located in midtown, in a commercial district, and by vacating other office space we occupied, we were able to finance the new building. The plot was bought many years ago at a very low price, when nobody dreamed that Tel Aviv would expand so far. The new building has about 300 rooms and here all the manifold activities of Histadrut are concentrated. The festive opening of the new building was an occasion to summarize the wide ramification of Histadrut operations and the important place our Federation occupies in the life of our country.



Overall view of the new Headquarter Building of the Israeli Federation of Labor (Histadrut)

Fraternaly yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:la
oeius:153

General Federation of Labor in Israel
(Histadrut Haavdim)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
Tel.: REcent 4-4010

ההתאחדות הכללית של העובדים בארץ ישראל

הוועד הפועל

מינהל כלכלי
ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut
X
X

August 31, 1953

Mr. David Beck, President
Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauff.
Warehousemen & Helpers of America
100 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Beck:

It was very nice meeting you and I am glad to know that you are interested in Israel and in our Federation of Labor.

I am sending you separately a book by Samuel Kurland called "Cooperative Palestine." This book will give you the background of our labor movement but its figures are out of date as the book was written in 1947 when our membership was around 170,000 whereas today it is 500,000.

I am enclosing back copies of my Newsletter which I began publishing in New York last January. I shall continue this publication during the next fall and winter and send you the copies. I am also sending you back copies of our publication "Work" which is printed in Israel and which will give you some idea about our activities. If, after reading the material you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to write me.

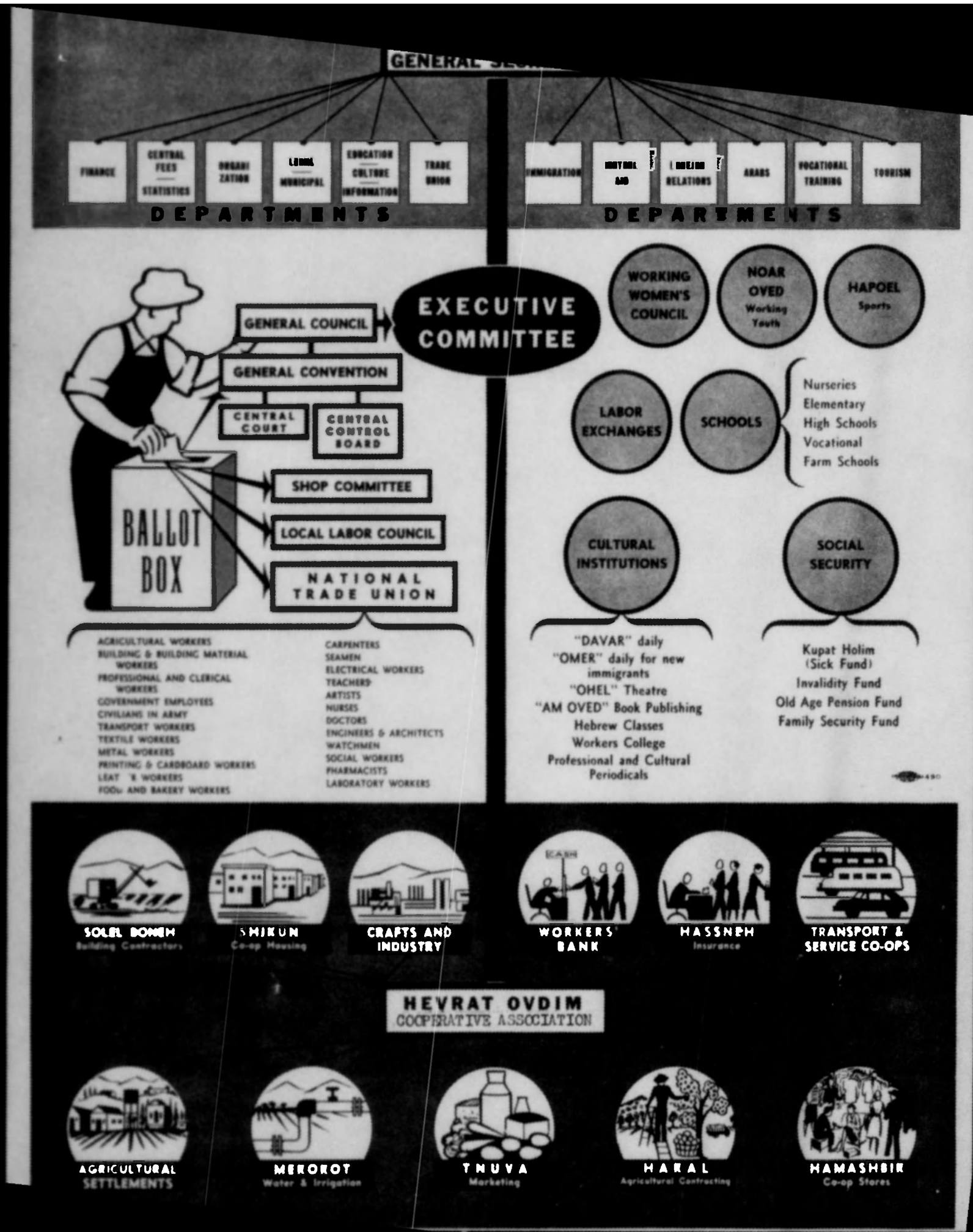
Hoping to see you soon again, I am,

Fraternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:la
encl.



JAN 29 1954

The book was sent
to library - Gene

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

התאחדות הכללית של העובדים העברים בארץ ישראל

הועד הפועל

בנינות באמריקה

HISTADRUT HOUSE
33 East 67th Street New York 21, N. Y.
Tel.: REgent 4-4818

LOCAL ADMIN. FILE

Histadrut

X

X

August 31, 1953

Mr. Dave Kaplan
Research Director
Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters
100 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brother Kaplan:

It was very nice meeting you and I am glad to know that you are interested in Israel and in our Federation of Labor.

I am sending you separately a book by Samuel Kurland called "Cooperative Palestine." This book will give you the background of our labor movement but its figures are out of date as the book was written in 1947 when our membership was around 170,000 whereas today it is 500,000.

I am enclosing back copies of my Newsletter which I began publishing in New York last January. I shall continue this publication during the next fall and winter and send you the copies. I am also sending you back copies of our publication "Work" which is printed in Israel and which will give you some idea about our activities. If, after reading the material you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to write me.

Hoping to see you again soon, I am,

Faternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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encl.

• • The Book.

You have an appt
with these people
at 2 p.m. Correspondence
for your review.

A,

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE ✓

Histadrut

X American Trade Council ✓

X

AUGUST 13, 1953

Mr. Gregory J. Bardacks, Executive Director
American Trade Union Council
33 East 67th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Sir and Brother:

This is in respect to your letter of August 6, concerning a meeting to be arranged for Moshe Bitan of Histadrut and yourself. You have not designated the time of Brother Bitan's return to the United States and for that reason, I cannot at this time determine where I will be upon his next visit. However, if you will contact my Washington office, a date can be arranged and I shall be very happy to carry out my promise to Vic Reisel.

Faternally yours,

DB:sw
a

Honorary Chairman

George Meany
WALTER F. RUTHER
MAX ZANDBERG

Honorary Vice-Chairmen

W. J. Ryan
JAMES B. CARR
JACOB GLATMAN
WILSON GORDON
BOB KERR
FREDERICK J. GORDON
GEORGE A. HENDERSON
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LEONARD H. HENDERSON
LARRY HOLLANDER
MORIS LINDENSTEIN
JACK KERR
MICHAEL MARK
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MAX GOLDBERG
Recording Secretary

GREGORY J. BARDACHE
Executive Director
MONICA BORDAS
Associate Director

AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE



Office of the
Executive Director

August 6, 1953

Mr. Dave Beck, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
100 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brother Beck:

Before leaving for Europe Vic Reisel was good enough to arrange an appointment for Moshe Bitan, Executive Council member of Histadrut and myself. Vic told me that you consented to see us and I attempted to reach you by phone.

In the meantime, Brother Bitan left for Stockholm where he was a Histadrut delegate to the ICFTU Conference and then went on to Israel. He will be back shortly and I hope that a firm appointment can be arranged.

Brother Bitan's mission in this country is to act as a direct liaison man to the American trade unions. Neither he nor Histadrut would consider his job well done if he did not have the opportunity of meeting and talking with you. I shall call your office for an appointment upon his return.

Please accept my congratulations for the wonderful job you are doing in behalf of the Teamsters. I have had the opportunity of working with several of your locals in the past and have always been very impressed with the way you organized and represented your members.

Fraternal and respectfully yours,

Gregory J. Bardache

GREGORY J. BARDACHE
Executive Director

GJB/ak
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VOLUME ONE - NUMBER SIX

June, 1953

Histadrut's cultural and recreational activities

Histadrut offers its half-million members a wide range of facilities for study and recreation. The membership of Histadrut is more than 50% of the total population of Israel, and Histadrut therefore plays a major role in all cultural activities within our State. These activities are directed by our Cultural Department which operates in three fields:

INFORMATION: Current events at home and abroad are presented through lectures in factories and over the radio. Special pamphlets and weekly seminars are additional means of keeping the Histadrut member well informed. Last year Histadrut sponsored about 80 study centers and classes for adults, and they were attended by about 3,500 workers. In Tel Aviv, about 400 workers attend a special evening high school, and a similar school is run in Haifa for hundreds of other workers.

EDUCATION: A network of people's colleges, a correspondence school, and special classes by arrangement with the Hebrew University are among the means of giving the workers a higher education. Histadrut libraries and cultural centers help raise the cultural standard in hundreds of communities. Each regional labor council and every immigrant camp has its own cultural committee which acts as liaison between the national center and the local groups. Local initiative is constantly encouraged.

ART: This division deals with all media of art expression. It publishes material on music (orchestral and choral), folk dancing, drama and other aspects of art.

What labor reads in Israel

Histadrut publishes its own newspaper, "Davar" ("The Word"), which has steadily gained in influence for a quarter of a century and has become the country's leading daily. Because of its high standard of news and comment and because of its reputation for authoritative and informed opinion, it is frequently referred to as the "The Times of Israel." It now publishes special women's and economic supplements, a popular illustrated weekly news magazine, a weekly children's magazine, and a special weekly trade union supplement.

In 1942, Histadrut founded its own publishing house, "Am Oved" ("Working People"), which publishes modern and classical literature, both fiction and non-fiction, drama, essays, poetry, pamphlets, and numerous other works, some in original Hebrew and some in translation from foreign languages, usually English. "Am Oved" has published translations of many books by leading American authors.

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Playtime

Histadrut also has its own repertory theatre, "Ohel" ("The Tent"). "Ohel" usually presents its shows at its own playhouse in Tel Aviv, but frequently goes on tour throughout the country so that farmers and workers in all settlements and towns, including the remoter villages, can have an opportunity of seeing good theatre.

One of the most popular organisations created by the Histadrut is the "Hapoel" ("The Workers") sports organisation. "Hapoel" has soccer, basketball, swimming, volleyball and other teams in most towns and villages as well as selected teams representing the whole country. After working hours and during weekends "Hapoel" teams all over the country play various games throughout the entire year. "Hapoel's" All-Israel teams have done very well in competition with foreign countries both in Israel and abroad.

Histadrut has also organised numerous other recreation groups such as chess teams, hiking associations, nature study groups, boating clubs, and others. Thousands of Histadrut members all over the country find refreshing relaxation in their pursuit of these games and hobbies.

Back to school

The pride of Histadrut's cultural activities is its Workers College in Tel Aviv. Here come thousands of workers for courses ranging in length from a week to a year. Here come trade union leaders to receive continuing training in their fields. One of the purposes of the Workers College is to train workers for responsible administrative positions in the many branches of our economic enterprises. The courses usually combine practical subjects which can be applied to every-day routine with a thorough study of the labor movement and of economics. All workers are eager to be chosen to attend these courses, and students are picked by the various unions in the Histadrut.

What about the new immigrants?

We must bear in mind that two out of three members of the Histadrut today are newcomers who arrived in Israel during the last five years. Many of them came from backward areas like North Africa and Middle East countries where they have been living in social and cultural conditions similar to those which existed two or three centuries ago in other parts of the world. Some of them are illiterate, and at least 90% of them do not know Hebrew, which is the language of our country. They have to adjust themselves to new conditions. They must enter new trades. Most of them never did any work in their own countries of origin. In Israel they must become modern workers. They must earn their wage in a modern economy. They must learn modern methods and modern machines. They must adapt themselves to the social and political climate of a western democracy.

Histadrut feels that we must do all we can to lift up these people as quickly as possible so that they will become useful citizens of a modern democracy and at the same time workers who know how to protect their dignity as workers. One of the problems in this field is the fact that many new immigrants

live in the "maabarot" (transit immigrant settlements), where they have little contact with the outside world, and if left to their own devices would perpetuate their foreign languages and habits and live much the same kind of life they lived in their previous countries.

The task of integrating them is tremendous. We believe that cultural integration is one of the most important steps towards molding these newcomers into a nation.

We have found that some of our activities which have been geared to the oldtimers in Israel are not attractive to the newcomers. How many of our activities are planned and conducted with an eye on the newcomer. About two years ago we started publishing a daily newspaper "Omer" which caters mainly to the newcomer. The language is easier and sometimes difficult words are transcribed into simpler Hebrew; if we had to translate it, we would have to do so into ten different languages, including Arabic, French, Yiddish, Turkish, etc. There are, of course, privately published newspapers in different languages.

Recreation facilities of our Sick Fund

We believe that good trade unions should do everything possible to enable their members to get a rest during their vacation. All our contracts include vacation with pay (Newsletter #4, April, 1953). We are anxious to have the workers get the most out of his vacation. Therefore our Sick Fund has established recreation and convalescent resorts throughout the country. Some of these resorts belong directly to the Sick Fund, while others are run by various cooperative settlements. All in all, there are about 20 different recreation and convalescent resorts with a capacity of 2,000 people at a time. Our members spend between 10 days and 2 weeks in these resorts. Some of them are open throughout the year, some only during the spring, summer and fall. Between 40,000 and 45,000 members are therefore able to get recreation in these vacation spots at reasonable rates. They provide rest, recreation, sports facilities, concerts, lectures and picnics. Some are on the seashore and others are in the mountains.

* * * *

This Newsletter is the last one until the fall. I hope you have found useful information in these Newsletters and I will continue to keep you informed about Histadrut in Israel after I return from Stockholm, where I will attend the ICFTU Congress as a member of the Histadrut delegation and after a short visit to Israel this July.

I want to wish you all a pleasant summer and a happy vacation.

Faternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:ls
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VOLUME ONE - NUMBER FIVE

May, 1953

Israel's Frontierland

Israel's desert southland, the Negev, is the new frontier region of the young State. Thousands of years ago, in King Solomon's time, the Negev was thriving farming country. Copper and other metals extracted from its soil added to its wealth.

Centuries later and down to our own times, the Negev was neglected and was transformed into a wild desert. As the map shows, this area forms the southern "triangle" of Israel and contains about half of its territory. It is bounded on the west by the Sinai Desert of Egypt, on the south by the Red Sea, and on the east by the deep Araba depression which was part of the ancient Biblical kingdom of Edom and today divides Israel from Jordan.



This triangle is destined to be pioneering country for many years. The conquest of the Negev desert was tentatively attempted long before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. But only now has the real drive toward the southland begun. Because private capital has not been too enthusiastic about taking risks in that difficult area, with its rough conditions and hot climate, the Israel labor movement (Histadrut) is practically alone in providing the pioneering thrust as well as the necessary capital investment.

The Negev today is Histadrut territory. The capital is Beersheba, which before the State of Israel was a hamlet of 4,000 Arabs, and is now a bustling community of 25,000 and still growing. Beersheba was built from scratch by Histadrut and its institutions.

New Road to Dead Sea

Israel's drive southward has been symbolized by the dramatic cutting of a road linking Beersheba with the Dead Sea. This road was opened for business on the fifth birthday of the State of Israel. "This is the most extraordinary road in the world, reaching down into the deepest gorge in the world." This was how Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, himself a former General Secretary of Histadrut, characterized the greatest engineering achievement in Israel's



New Road to Dead Sea

history when, on March 26, a huge convoy of trucks and buses brought jubilant Israelis to Kilometer 9 of the Kurnub-Sodom highway.

Cutting the distance from Beersheba to Sodom down to fifty miles, the road makes possible the extraction and export of potash from the Dead Sea and the transport of phosphates from the Great Crater deposits. Solel Boneh, the Histadrut's general contracting company, with its two subsidiaries, Even v'Sid (lime and stone crushing), and Harish (earth-moving), participated in the construction work, as did some private contractors.

Settlement Outposts

Cooperative farm settlements affiliated with our Federation of Labor were the vanguard of the pioneering drive in the days before the State of Israel. Twelve settlements were established before 1948 and some 35 after the creation of our State. This chain of settlements guards our long and difficult borderline. They are really outposts of cooperative enterprise and democracy deep in the desert. Some of these settlements had to overcome unheard-of hardships because of difficult climate, lack of water, shortages of supplies and especially their isolation. Even today the only line of supplies for the recently established settlement of Ein Gedi at the western shores of the Dead Sea is by helicopter because there is no access by road during most of the months of the year.

The desert land of the Negev, where settlements have not yet been established, has been divided up among old settlements in the north which cultivate grain there. They "descend" into the land of the Negev with an army of tractors to plow and sow the fields. Then another army of harvesters come to reap the grain.

Industry in the Desert

Agriculture is the basis of our activities in the Negev, but is not the only one. Towns and villages are being built in various parts of the desert. Industrial enterprises are being opened. Here again Labor's industrial institutions form the spearhead. In Beersheba the "Negev Glass Works", in which Solel Boneh, a Histadrut enterprise, is an equal partner with a group of American investors, is being established. These plants will use the sands of the desert to produce glass.

In Migdal Gad, a plant for the production of irrigation pipes was established several years ago in which Solel Boneh also shares ownership. These

pipes, with diameters as large as 5'6", will revive the Negev by bringing water from the mountains and swamps of the north. This plant, "Tuval Gad", is more than just another factory. It is a social factor too. More than two dozen different countries are represented by the 300 workers in the plant. Most of them come from oriental lands where modern industry is practically unknown. Smaller factories established through Histadrut's initiative include a ceramics factory, a wall tile factory, a plant for the manufacture of insecticides to be produced from mineral resources in the Negev, and many others.

Boomtown

The apex of the triangle is the ancient Red Sea port of Akeba, now called Eilat. Eilat is still a frontier outpost and climatic conditions are very difficult. The atmosphere of Eilat is that of a wild west town of the 19th century - without the saloons - combined with the closely knit community atmosphere of cooperative settlements. Private capital is not attracted to these conditions and existing economic institutions are almost all cooperative. They include a consumers cooperative store, cooperatively run restaurants, bakeries and garages, and a fishing cooperative. The 600 workers now in Eilat are employed mainly in fishing, quarrying, building and road construction. The port is expected to form the basis of economy. Plans are already in hand for a tourist hotel in Eilat. A special Histadrut committee is handling these development plans. The Israel inland air line "Arkia" which runs a daily flight to Eilat - the main means of communication - is partly owned by Histadrut.

Our Sick Fund followed our pioneers. Medical stations were established in most of the settlements and a district clinic is being built in Beerseheba so that specialists' care will be made available to the Negev population. The new Sick Fund Hospital, the Kaplan Memorial Hospital near Rehovot, will service the whole of the Negev. Arrangements are being made to overcome the hardships of recent years, when medical personnel had to be rotated because conditions were not suitable for permanent residency and personnel as well as supply had to be flown in by air.

Last but not least, Histadrut had to bargain for special wage provisions for all workers south of the 30th parallel and east of the 180° longitude. Special allowances for skilled and unskilled workers and special maintenance pay for those who lived apart from their families were agreed upon.

Fraternally yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

mb:le
oaim:153

April, 1953

Israeli Trade Unions

Our General Federation of Labor has been in existence for 32 years. I should like to try here to tell you briefly what we have achieved as a trade union over these years.

We have succeeded in organizing farm labor and industrial workers as well as the white collar workers and the professions. Of 503,000 regular Histadrut members at the end of October, 1952,

- 348,000 were employed by private capital and to a smaller extent in government service;
- 95,300 were self-employed as members of farming, industrial, marketing or service cooperatives;
- 45,200 were employed by Histadrut-owned companies in industry, construction work, etc.;
- 14,500 were Histadrut and Sick Fund employees (administrative, medical, etc.).

Histadrut members are organized by occupation in 30 national unions. The largest of these are the Agricultural Workers Union, Building and Building Trades Union, Union of Government Employees, Clerical Union, Metal Workers Union, Textile Workers Union, Woodworkers Union and Teachers Union.

Wage Conditions

Our trade union policy is based on collective bargaining. Practically every trade has its own fixed wage scale. Having organized 75% of the country's workers, Histadrut naturally has a decisive say in all matters of wage policy. The worker's pay envelope includes basic wages, cost-of-living allowances, production bonuses, length-of-service increments and family allowances (based on the number of dependents). Workers are hired through labor exchanges which are run jointly by Histadrut and three smaller independent unions. Hiring through these labor exchanges gets much the same results as you do through your "union shop." Dismissal of workers is regulated by our contracts, which call for a stated period of notice and provide for the order in which employees may be dismissed.

Social Benefits

Our accumulated social benefits run as high as 25% and sometimes as high as 40% of gross wages. These benefits naturally vary from one industry to another and sometimes from one union to another. About half of all Histadrut members get two weeks paid vacation a year, but many get three weeks or more. A new law guarantees a minimum of 12 days paid vacation a year. Most of our contracts provide for paid holidays, paid maternity leave (up to two months of full

wages), and employers' contributions to the health insurance plan (Sick Fund) administered by Histadrut. This contribution covers sick leave payments and work-accident insurance.

In some unions, social benefits are covered by special overall "insurance funds." Building workers, for example, who usually work for a short period for one contractor and then move on, have built a very strong fund through their union. The employer contributes 20% of gross wages to this fund, and the worker pays 3½%. The employer's 20% is broken down as follows: 3% for savings and retirement plans; 3% for health insurance; 2% for sick leave; 4½% for vacation pay; 1% for accident insurance; 3% for severance pay; and 3½% for paid holidays. Of the worker's 3½%, 3% is for savings and retirement plans and ½% for vacation pay. The insurance funds of the industrial and agricultural workers differ somewhat in their structure, but the employer's contribution is also provided for by contract.

A few of these insurance funds use some of their reserves and deposits to finance housing plans and recreation resorts for their members. Recently these insurance funds mobilized about 5 million Israeli pounds (\$5,000,000) to provide credits for industries which were on the point of dismissing workers. Histadrut has thus been able to help government and industry to avoid the threat of wide unemployment.

Wage Differential

One of the problems presented by our wage policy is the relatively small differential between the various wage levels. Cost-of-living allowances are nearly equal for all grades. Because of rising prices, they form a relatively high proportion of gross wages. As a result, the gap has been narrowed between the wages of skilled workers in high income brackets and those of unskilled workers in low income brackets. The monthly wage of a metal worker in the lowest grade in December, 1951, was 58 Israeli pounds; in November, 1952, it was 111 Israeli pounds. His wages had gone up 92%. The monthly wage of a metal worker in the highest grade in December, 1951, was 96 Israeli pounds; in November, 1952, it was 161 Israeli pounds. His wages had only gone up 67%. In 1951 the highest grade worker got 65% more than the lowest grade worker; in 1952 the difference was only 45%.

In the last five years Israel doubled its population. Many of our industries are new. Because of these two factors, we are eager to offer the industrial worker definite incentives to increase his skill or acquire new skills. The present narrow gap between the highest and the lowest grade does not offer that kind of incentive. This problem is now being carefully studied by the Histadrut.

Fraternally yours,

Moshe Bitan
Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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AMERICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL

of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL
33 East 67 Street • New York 21, N. Y. • REgent 4-6010



March 24, 1953

Office of the
Executive Director

Mr. David Beck, President
Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs,
Warehousemen & Malpers of America
100 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Histadrut
X
X

Dear Sir and Brother:

The attacks by the communists on the State of Israel and the Histadrut (General Federation of Labor in Israel) do not come as a surprise to the American trade unions. American Labor has always known that the one thing communists cannot tolerate is a successful democracy or a successful free trade union.

Histadrut was built by heroic intelligent trade unionists dedicated to the highest principles of democracy. In addition to the everyday business of organizing and collective bargaining, this Union undertook the task of building a new nation, providing for the health of its members and their families, integrating the new immigrants, creating jobs where there was no industry, making productive the land that through the neglect of over two thousand years had turned into salt swamps and deserts and at the same time preparing themselves for the defense of their new homes and families from the attacks by Arabs, just as our pioneers defended their homes and families from the attacks of savages.

In this struggle the Histadrut received full support from their brothers of the American trade unions — support without which it is doubtful that there would be a free trade union left in the Middle East. More technically advanced countries under communism have not been able to solve problems of smaller proportions. Arab nations with their despotism, their slavery and their complete contempt for their workers and farmers, have failed to alleviate the hunger and misery of masses of their people.

Now and Unholy Alliance of communists and the most reactionary elements in the Arab world are preparing an onslaught against the small brave democracy of Israel and its very foundation, the Histadrut.

The communists' Anti-Semitism is really an attack on democracy. The Arabs' fanatic nationalism is really an attempt to hide their own failures and to wipe out the example of democracy that not only brings dignity to the individual but provides him with the necessities of life.

- 2 -

Histadrut is preparing to face this new challenge. New immigrants are already finding their way into Israel. They must be provided for; houses must be built, new jobs created, agricultural output increased, hospitals, health centers, schools, recreation and training expanded. The greater part of this activity falls on the already over-burdened shoulders of Histadrut. The dues of the 500,000 members cannot provide all these services.

Histadrut needs assistance in its struggle against communism. It is natural that it would once again turn to its brothers of the American trade unions. Money is needed urgently and immediately. American unions have always believed that the best way to fight communism is to support and strengthen democracy.

Let the immediate support of Histadrut be the American unions' answer to the Unholy Alliance of the madmen in the Kremlin and the feudal lords of the Arab world.

Make checks payable to the National Committee for Labor Israel. Please give this letter your most careful consideration. The life of a democracy and a free trade union is at stake.

Faternally and respectfully yours,

Gregory J. Bardacke

GREGORY J. BARDACKE
Executive Director

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March, 1953

Collection and Appropriation of Histadrut Dues

I have been asked by many trade union leaders in this country how Histadrut collects and appropriates dues. I feel that an explanation of this particular phase of our organization will give you a good picture of our Federation of Labor.

Our dues are paid by the individual member to the Central Dues Bureau ("Lishkett Hamass" in Hebrew). This bureau is run in Tel Aviv as a department of our Executive Board and has branch offices in all bigger localities throughout the country. Smaller localities have their Regional Offices. With most of Israel's employers (including some government offices) there are agreements for a monthly check-off of Histadrut dues.

A member of Histadrut earning up to 60 Israeli pounds a month pays 4% of his salary; a member earning up to 85 Israeli pounds pays 4½%; a member earning over 85 Israeli pounds pays 5%. These dues are uniform for all Histadrut members and every member derives all benefits from all our institutions. In case of unemployment, a member does not have to pay his dues, yet he can receive all benefits. All dues flow into one central purse and every year, when discussing the budget of our Federation, Histadrut's Executive Board decides how the dues should be appropriated. This year's appropriation runs as follows:

Organizational purposes (including education and cultural activities)	44½%
Sick Fund	46 %
Invalidity Fund	2 %
Old Age Pension Fund	2½%
Social Relief & Welfare	5 %

Each of these institutions then decide on its budget, based on the income derived from dues and other sources. The revenue of the Executive Board consists to a large extent, therefore, of the organizational portion of the dues and to a smaller extent of imposed appropriations from our profit-making institutions. In addition, there are the funds sent to Histadrut by the "National Committee for Labor Israel" and its affiliated body, the "American Trade Union Council for Histadrut" in the United States and Canada. These, however, are applied only to the absorption of new immigrants, vocational training, and capital investments involved in the establishment of new hospitals for our Sick Fund. The Executive Board will, after careful consideration, allocate funds from its central budget for all the national trade unions, departments and local councils. The new or weak union therefore enjoys the support of the same resources as the strong and consolidated one.

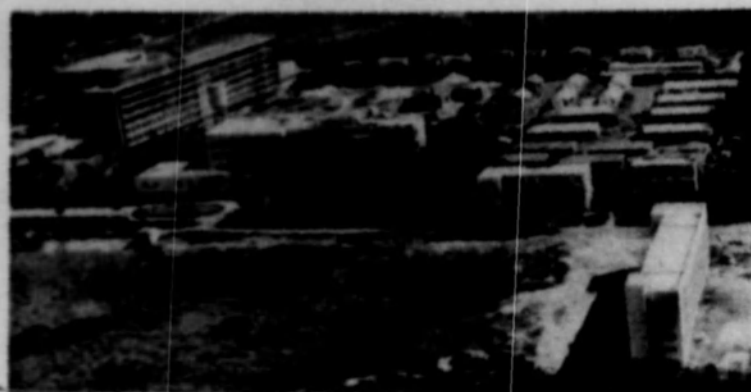
NEWSLETTER

- 2 -

Kupat Holim (Sick Fund)

One of the most important institutions is "Kupat Holim" (Sick Fund). This fund provides free clinical care, hospitalization and recreation facilities for its members, and services 65% of the entire population of Israel. The Sick Fund has some non-Histadrut members, particularly members of one of the smaller unions existing outside the framework of our Federation.

The Sick Fund has about 900 clinics and 13 hospitals (with 1,830 beds). The staff of the Sick Fund consists of about 6,000 men and women, including 1,300 doctors and 1,600 nurses.



The old and new wing of the Beilinson Hospital near Tel Aviv, which is the biggest hospital of the Sick Fund.

Apart from membership dues, the Sick Fund derives its income from employers bound by collective agreements. Their payments make up 30% of the budget of the Sick Fund.

Our Sick Fund plays an important role in the rehabilitation of the masses of new immigrants who have arrived in Israel during the last few years. Many of them, especially those coming from Arab and Oriental countries, bring chronic diseases with them, and in many cases a costly and lengthy cure has to be provided for the new immigrant.

The importance of our Sick Fund for the general development of our country is best illustrated by the fact that it follows always closely behind the pioneers who open up new frontiers. Our undeveloped and pioneering area is the Negev, Israel's southern desert. A large hospital, South of Be'er Sheva, bearing the name of our late Minister of Finance and one of the founders of Histadrut, Eliezer Kaplan, is in the process of construction. This new hospital of 300 beds will become the medical center for the pioneering south.

Faternally yours,

Moshe Bitan
Moshe Bitan
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel
American Representative

WESTERN UNION
SENDING BLANK

MPC DAYLETTER FEBRUARY 2, 1953
ADMINISTRATIVE FILE ✓

JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG
675 WALTON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY

Histadant
X Nat. Comm. for Labor Service
X Schlossberg, Rose, et al.

RE YOUR LETTER PERTAINING APPOINTMENT YOURSELF AND LOUISE HOFFMAN, MR. BECK IN MIAMI. SUGGEST MATTER AWAIT HIS RETURN LATTER PART THIS MONTH.

ANN WATKINS, SECRETARY
TO MR. BECK

Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER—DO NOT FOLD

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National Committee for Labor Israel

AFFILIATED WITH
HISTADRUT HAOVDIM IN ISRAEL

הוועדה הלאומית לעבודה בישראל
כאן דעם הסתדרות אין ישראל

33 EAST 67th STREET

REgent 4 6010

NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

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ISAAC HAMILIN
National Secretary

Mr. Dave Beck, President
International Brotherhood of
Teamsters, Chauffeurs,
Warehousemen & Helpers
of America, A.F. of L.
352 Denny Way
Seattle 9, Washington.

Dear President Beck:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you on a matter
of great importance.

The National Committee for Labor Israel is an American
organization aiding and supporting the General Federa-
tion of Labor in Israel, known as Histadrut, in its heroic
efforts to rehabilitate and integrate into the ranks of
labor the hundreds of thousands of destitute and homeless
new arrivals who have found a haven in Israel. Most of these
come from under-developed eastern countries and without
industrial skills.

Miss Louise Hoffman, our field director, who is at present
in Detroit, has met with Mr. James R. Hoffa, President of
the Teamsters' Joint Council in the Detroit area, on be-
half of labor (Histadrut) in Israel.

Mr. Hoffa has kindly suggested and advised to ask for an
audience with you in Washington, prior to your leaving
for your National Executive Board meeting in Miami. He
graciously permitted the use of his name in our letter to
you. Miss Hoffman and I will be glad to meet you, at your
convenience, on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, (February
4, 5, or 6), in Washington, and present the urgent Hist-
adrut matter to you. I shall deeply appreciate your fav-
orable reply, by wire, at the below address, and indica-
ting the time and place for our meeting.

January 31, 1953

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

HISTADRUT

x Natl Com. for
Labor Israel

"As a citizen of Israel, I am proud that we have such a Histadrut."—DAVID BEN GURION

In conclusion, I extend to you my sincerest congratulations upon your election as President of your great organization, and best wishes for success.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph Schlossberg

Joseph Schlossberg
National Chairman.
(General Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America)

(875 Walton Ave.
New York 51. N. Y.)

Copy sent to *Seattle*
Washington, D.C.

February, 1953

How Histadrut Functions

The structure of Histadrut differs considerably from that of the American trade union movement.

A new member does not join a specific trade union but the Histadrut as a whole; only then does he automatically become a member of a local and national trade union.

The member pays his dues to the Histadrut, not to his Union. The reason for this overall priority of the general federation is that Israel is a country of mass immigration and the labor movement wishes to keep its doors open to all the newcomers.

Histadrut has set up local Labor Councils (corresponding to your City-Councils) which handle all the affairs of the workers in a given locality, which have jurisdiction over the local unions.

As can be seen from the chart, the trade union activities are only one of the functions of Histadrut. Israeli labor is deeply interested and therefore active in the field of social security, constructive economic enterprises, culture, vocational training, education and others indicated on the chart.

The pure trade union matters are handled on three levels: local, through the local union which operates under the local labor council; national, through one of the 23 existing national trade unions; and the overall level, dealing with such matters as wage policy, laid down by the Trade Union Department operating under the Executive Committee.

Officers are elected by direct, secret ballot of the individual workers. Candidates are put forward by various parties within the federation, and chosen on the basis of proportional representation. The General Convention is convoked every four years.

The Convention elects the GENERAL COUNCIL, which in turn elects the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. This body then names its EXECUTIVE BUREAU and GENERAL SECRETARY, who are responsible for the daily conduct of business. Each of the departments listed on the chart is headed by a member of the Executive Committee.

Elections to the Convention are held simultaneously with elections to the local labor councils, also on a basis of proportional representation. The majority party is MAPAI, The Israel Labor Party, which is incidentally the strongest party in Parliament and the major partner in the coalition government.

Shop committee elections are held every two years. Candidates are put up on an individual basis rather than on a party list.

The Secretary-General of the Histadrut, a position corresponding to that of the President of the AFL or CIO here, is a highly important function. It is presently occupied by Mordecai Namir who is also a member of Parliament. In the past, this function had been occupied for many years by David Ben Gurion, the present Prime Minister of our State, by the late David Remez, formerly Minister of Education and by Joseph Sprinsak, the present speaker of our Parliament.

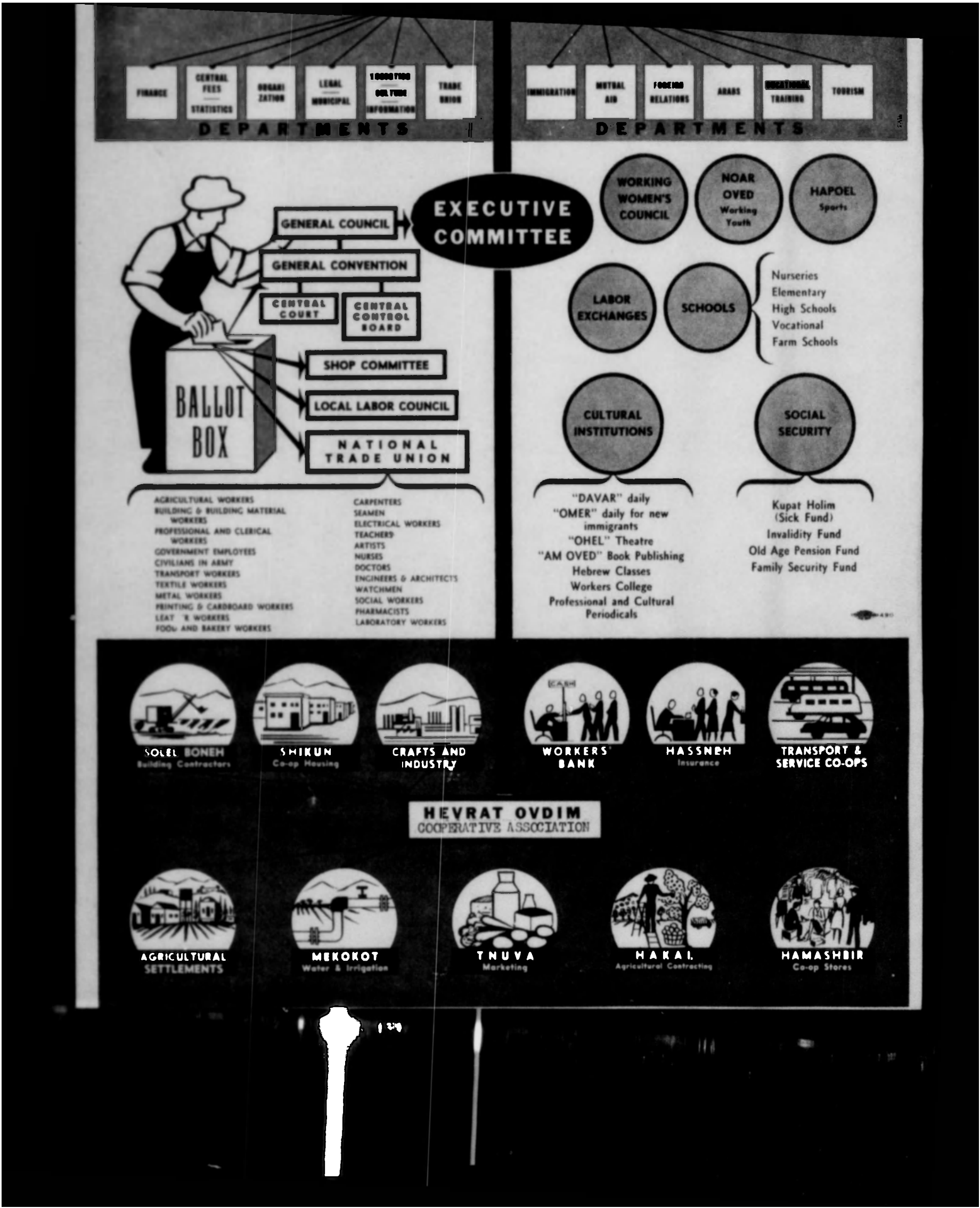
Some of you may have met some Histadrut officers who recently visited the United States: Moshe Bar-Am, who is the secretary of the Jerusalem Labor Council and a member of the National Executive Committee, is now touring the United States under the auspices of the Point Four program for foreign trade union leaders. Joseph Almogi, who is secretary of the Haifa Labor Council and at the same time a member of the National Executive Committee, has spent about four months in this country on behalf of our organization. I myself, am a member of the National Executive Committee and prior to my departure to the USA, was head of the Labor Exchanges in Israel and a member of the 7 man Central Trade Union Committee.

I hope that the enclosed chart and these few explanations illustrate to you the functions and structure of Histadrut. I shall be glad to answer any specific questions you may have.

Faternally yours,

Moshe Bitan
Moshe Bitan
American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

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Labor in Israel.

January, 1953

GROWTH OF HISTADRUT At the Histadrut National Council meeting last October, it was reported that Histadrut had 503,000 members. With their families Histadrut members total about 750,000, or more than half the population of Israel. The percentage of organized labor in Israel is very high. About 75% of all organizable workers and wage-earners are organized in Histadrut. Some 10% more are organized in three smaller Unions, two of which are incorporated into the Trade Union activities and Health Insurance plans of Histadrut. All of them joined Histadrut in creating the General Labor Exchange, run jointly by the Unions and Government, which controls practically the entire labor market. Only 15% of all workers and wage-earners in Israel are as yet unorganized.

PROBLEMS OF IMMIGRATION While Israel has doubled its population in the past 4½ years, Histadrut has nearly tripled its membership during the same period. Two out of three of our members are newcomers, the bulk of whom had not been workers in countries of their origin and possess no skill or profession and our organization has to see to it that the new member learns a trade and improves his skill.

PROBLEMS OF INFLATION Due to the great influx of immigrants and the inadequate rise in capital investments, we have been living under the shadow of inflation for the last few years. The government has adopted deflationary measures in its financial and fiscal policy, which have changed the situation. Histadrut has been successful in obtaining through overall bargaining, an automatic sliding wage scale adjusted quarterly to the official index of commodity prices. But the worker in Israel understands well enough that a fatter pay envelope in itself does not meet his needs. Our organization has adopted the policy of linking a higher income to a higher output, without invalidating the present sliding wage scale. We are in the process of establishing joint production boards in all industries in order to give the worker say in how to raise efficiency and thus solve some problems of our national economy and incidentally achieve higher wages.

HISTADRUT AS A COLONIZER AND AN ENTREPRENEUR Our functions are much wider than those of a Trade Union. For the last two or three decades our Labor movement had to help build the economy of the country, hand in hand with building its Union. We found in Palestine a devastated, deserted country that could be reclaimed only through great pioneering efforts. Labor pioneers established a vast network of cooperative agricultural settlements. But later on, when new frontiers had to be opened in difficult and dangerous parts of our old-new country, Labor had to provide capital besides manpower. No private person was prepared to take the risk of a doubtful investment. Thus a wide network of cooperatives and economic institutions in agriculture, building trades, transport services, housing, marketing, distribution, insurance, banking, came into being. The result is that today 155,000 Histadrut members belong to cooperatives or are employed in one of our own enterprises.

Fraternal yours,

Moshe Bitan

Moshe Bitan, American Representative
Executive Board of Histadrut in Israel

HISTADRUT HOUSE • 33 East 67th Street, New York 21, N. Y. • Tel.: REgent 4-6010